FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-156
Friday
12 August 1994

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-156 12 August 1994

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Progress of Jordanian-Israeli Talks Assessed *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Aug]* 1
'Urayqat Comments on Early Empowerment Talks *[Cairo International]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Letters to U.S., Others on Peace *[Jericho VOP]* 3
'Arafat 'Disapproves' of Qaddumi Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Qaddumi Justifies Remarks *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Aug]* 3
Panel To Run Jericho After Mayor's Resignation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
'Arafat To Organize Meeting With Hamas in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Hamas Claims Responsibility for Jerusalem Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Al-Husayni on Peace Talks, Jerusalem Issues 4
Views Erez Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 4
Urges High-Level Jerusalem Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Aug]* 4
Views King Husayn Jerusalem Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Views Orient House Meetings *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 5
Jordan-PLO Dispute Over Jerusalem Continues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Aug]* 5
Paper Views Christopher's 'Long Intervals' Policy *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 10 Aug]* 6
Paper Views Rabin-'Arafat Talks, 'Dire Situation' *[AL-QUDS 11 Aug]* 6
Fatah Wins W. Bank Engineers Association Election *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Six Killed by 'Explosion' in Scrap Yard Accident *[MENA]* 7
Economic Agreement Signed With U.S. Corporation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Energy Center Begins Operating in E. Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
PECDAR Source on Paying PNA Expenditures *[Jericho VOP]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

U.S. Reported To View FIS Takeover 'Inevitable' *[IRNA]* 8
Armed Islamic Group Lists Demands on France *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Aug]* 8
FFS Agrees To Open Dialogue With Government *[Paris International]* 8
Transitional National Council Holds Session *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Sifi Addresses Council *[Algiers TV]* 9

Egypt

Birri Asked Mubarak To 'Intervene' With Israel *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Aug]* 10
'Unforeseen' UN 'Threat' to Bosnians Denounced *[MENA]* 10
Arabs Who Support Sanctions on Iraq Criticized *[AL-AHRAM 8 Aug]* 10
Saddam Criticized for Detaining Kuwaitis *[AL-AKHBAR 4 Aug]* 11
Editor Criticizes U.S. Terrorism Policy *[AL-AKHBAR 7 Aug]* 11
Grievances of Workers in Libya Noted *[AL-AHRAM 4 Aug]* 12
UAE's Zayid Concludes 3-Day Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 13
Businessmen Conclude Economic Exchange Seminar *[MENA]* 13
Editorial on ICPD, Population Explosion Problem *[AL-AHRAM 31 Jul]* 13
Population Minister Views Problems *[MENA]* 14
Minister Proposes Islamic Space Channel *[Cairo Radio]* 14

Morocco

Talks Held in Paris on Return of Exiles *[MAP]* 14

Sudan

Libyan Delegation Continues Unity Talks 14
Meets Al-Bashir *[SUNA]* 14
Joint Communique Signed *[SUNA]* 14
Foreign Minister Begins Tour of African Nations *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Operation Begins Dropping Relief Supplies to South *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Source: 'Biased' People Cast Doubt on Peace Role *[SPA]* 16
Editorial Criticizes 'Headlong Rush' Into Talks *[AL-YAWM 9 Aug]* 16
Bosnian Ambassador Praises Support Efforts *[SPA]* 16

Yemen

Sanaa Says YSP Must Expel Separatist Leaders *[AFP]* 16
Further on Socialist Party Meeting in Damascus 17
Secession Decision Renounced *[AFP]* 17
Damascus Reports Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 17
'Sons of Yemen' League Leader Defends Stance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Aug]* 17

IRAQ

Assembly Speaker Receives British Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Saddam Cables King Husayn on Accession Anniversary *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Iraq Said Receiving Only 7 Percent of Food Needs *[INA]* 19
KDP, SAIRI Discuss Ways To Solve Differences *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 19

ISRAEL

U.S. Compromise Proposal on Golan Rejected 20
Proposal Described *[Jerusalem TV]* 20
Rabin Rejects Proposal *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Withdrawal Offer Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Envoy Denies 'Compromise' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Rabin Urges Cooperation Against 'Islamic Terror' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Peres on Sha'th Plans To Visit Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Peres on Legality of Orient House Meetings *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Experts Present Options for Jerusalem Sovereignty *[HA'ARETZ 11 Aug]* 22
'Terrorists' Wound Three Policemen in Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Danish Observers Criticize 'Poor Cooperation' *[Stockholm Radio]* 23
Sharon: Likud Will Not Advance Oslo Accords *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Defense Agreement Signed With Papua New Guinea *[HA'ARETZ 11 Aug]* 23
Rabin Warns of IMI Closure *[HA'ARETZ 11 Aug]* 23
Air Force Delays Decision on Airport Shutdown *['AL HAMISHMAR 11 Aug]* 24
Retiring General: IDF 'Unprofessional' Army *[HA'ARETZ 11 Aug]* 24

JORDAN

'Arafat Invited to Amman To Discuss Jerusalem *[AKHIR KHABAR 11 Aug]* 25
Paper Urges Israel To Recognize Arab Rights *[AL-RA'Y 12 Aug]* 25

LEBANON

Fadlallah on Katyushas, Christopher's Syria Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Aug]* 26
Samahah Criticizes Jordanian-Israeli Initiative *[AL-YAWM 7 Aug]* 26
Defense Minister Comments on South, Peace Talks *[AL-ITTIHAD 9 Aug]* 26
Israeli Forces Use Missiles for 'First Time' *[Voice of the South]* 29
Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah *[Beirut Radio]* 29
'War' Scenarios Against Iran, Hizballah Noted *[AL-SHIRA' 8 Aug]* 29
Chamber of Deputies Speaker Returns From Egypt *[Beirut Radio]* 30

SYRIA

Ambassador to Cairo on Prospects for Peace *[AL-'ARABI 8 Aug]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Militia Positions Said Seized; 17 Killed *[Kabul Radio]* 34

Bangladesh

Rejection of Indian Transit Facility Welcomed *[DAINIK INQILAB 8 Aug]* 34

India

Satellite Television Service Available *[Delhi TV]* 34

Iran

Further on Charges Made in Argentine Bombing 35
Three More Diplomats Suspected *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 11 Aug]* 35
Resistance of 'Pressure' Urged *[Tehran International]* 35
Threat of 'Intervention' Seen *[IRNA]* 35
Christopher Visit Linked to Bombing Accusations *[Tehran TV]* 36
'Incapable' Christopher Said Suffering 'Perplexity' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 8 Aug]* 36
Christopher's Talks on Islamic Resistance Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 9 Aug]* 37
Majles Deputies on Syrian Relations, Hizballah *[ABRAR 9 Aug]* 38
Iraqi Peace Overtures Said Contradicted by Deeds *[IRNA]* 38
Foreign Ministry Official on Resolution 598 *[KEYHAN 19 Jul]* 39
* Tehran Seen Softening Stand on Gulf Islands *[Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM 21 Jun]* 39
Paper Views Uzbek Leadership as 'Openly Hostile' *[TEHRAN TIMES 9 Aug]* 40
Trade Statistics With Turkmenistan Reported *[IRNA]* 40
Dailies View Demonstrations in Qazvin 40
Respect for Majles Urged *[HAMSHAHRI 4 Aug]* 40
Disturbances Blamed on 'Enemies' *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 8 Aug]* 41
Besharati on Upgrading Hormozgan Security *[Tehran TV]* 41
Increased Oil Production Capacity Urged
[TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) 4 Aug] 42
Bank Governor Says Public's Trust Increasing *[HAMSHAHRI 4 Aug]* 42

Nepal

Over 12,000 Congress Party Workers Attend Meeting *[AFP]* 43

Arab-Israeli Talks

Progress of Jordanian-Israeli Talks Assessed

JN1108064994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Aug 94 p 7

[Report by Nirmin Murad at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel]

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli negotiators Wednesday [10 August] got down to the more mundane yet substantive in what appears to be a serious bid to speed up the pace of negotiations.

On their second day of bilateral negotiations delegates from the two sides broke into small groups, which spent the day working out the details and technicalities that will lead the two states to final agreements.

And as things moved forward, both sides appeared more tightlipped about the substance of these talks.

"We have established the principles and now we are moving into details," Dr. Marwan Mu'ashshir, spokesperson of the Jordanian delegation, told the JORDAN TIMES.

But the "details" are not marginal or unsubstantive. Having established the principal of "mutual recognition of rightful (water) allocations of the two sides" of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers during the Wadi al-'Arabah talks in mid July, the "details" during Tuesday's and Wednesday's bilaterals included "discussing amounts of water shares," a Jordanian source said.

"I am not going to define to the press now any details on the talks between the Jordanian delegation and Israel mission," the chief Israeli water expert, Nooh Kinarti [name as published], told the JORDAN TIMES.

He maintained that his silence "is for the benefit of both countries" when asked to confine [as published] that negotiations had moved to defining exact shares of water.

But while not revealing the details of their talks, both sides agree that there is a "common interest" between Jordan and Israel to ensure that both sides have sufficient supplies of water.

A Jordanian source said that there is a sense that Israel "has an interest" in cooperating with Jordan in not only agreeing on water shares in the Jordan River and al-Yarmuk River but also in jointly increasing the water resources.

"We know that Israel has an interest in cooperating on the water shares issue as well as in jointly working to increase water resources," the source said.

Mr. Kinarti, speaking to Jordanian reporters, said earlier Israel was "100 per cent" committed to resolving the water problem with the Kingdom in a manner "that you can live with and it would be a satisfactory one."

He said that he feels that with "a reasonable attitude I am sure that we will overcome the gaps between the two countries."

On the boundary demarcation talks, the Jordanian delegation sources said that Israeli negotiators had accepted the 1928 mandate document as delineating the borders between Jordan and Israel.

"What we are going to do now is a purely technical affair," a source said. If the Israeli side continues to view the issue as a "technical" rather than "political" one, Jordanian sources do not see any "major sticking points" on that level.

But behind the "detailed negotiations" here, Jordanian political sources say that the Kingdom has the "political will" to push ahead in its track of negotiation, a will that is apparently reciprocated by Israel.

Sources in Amman told the JORDAN TIMES that Jordan feels the urgency of registering concrete progress in its negotiations with Israel in view of the Cairo agreement on the Palestinian track and unseen but definite progress on the Syrian track.

The Kingdom has apparently been made aware of progress on the Syrian track that includes reaching some type of agreement on the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

According to the well-placed sources, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle diplomacy between Syria and Israel has laid out a general frame for principles guiding an agreement between Syria and Israel.

What these sources expect to remain unresolved are "details over the security arrangements after Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the timing of normalisation procedures and the phases of withdrawal.

Analysts and political sources expect that once the "final details" guiding the Syrian track are worked out, Syria would be ready to reach its own separate "declaration of principles" or agreement.

The analysts say that the Kingdom wants to ensure the "comprehensiveness" of the peace process but also does not want to be left trailing the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli talks.

'Urayqat Comments on Early Empowerment Talks

NC1208065994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister of local government" in the Palestinian National Authority, in Jericho, by Sayyid al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] Good morning and welcome at the beginning of this interview.

['Urayqat] Good morning and thank you.

[Al-Miliji] Let us first get acquainted with the main topics presently under discussion between you and the Israeli side.

['Urayqat] The recent meeting with the Israeli prime minister covered specific topics related to early empowerment in the fields of health, education, social affairs, tourism, and

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

taxation. We noticed some Israeli procrastination, particularly on redeploying the Israeli troops in the remaining areas of the West Bank and the elections.

As far as elections are concerned, we agreed to start negotiations next week. Israeli procrastination was clear in their failure to redeploy troops in accordance with the agreement Rabin signed in Washington. The same thing goes for the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. Israel has not come up with anything new in this connection.

Most other topics, like the crossings and safe passages, will be concluded in the coming days God willing.

[Al-Miliji] What has the Palestinian-Israeli summit produced?

['Urayqat] It produced a decision to hold another summit and continue negotiations. In fact, the summit produced nothing, because we were hoping to conclude negotiations on early empowerment, but the Israeli side was reluctant to do so. The same thing applies to the need to discuss the redeployment of the Israeli troops in the remainder of the West Bank in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. But we found no responsiveness.

We agreed to hold a Palestinian-Israeli meeting on Friday [12 August] and another meeting in Cairo of the Higher Liaison Committee. After these meetings, a meeting might be held next week between the Israeli prime minister and brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Al-Miliji] Let us talk about the elections issue. Can you explain this point further?

['Urayqat] Internally, we have made almost all the necessary arrangements, including in the electoral system. There is a contract with the European Union [EU] regarding the elections. Europe has become our full partner in carrying out all the necessary arrangements in that field. However, more important is the need to conduct negotiations on the redeployment of the Israeli troops. Our agreement stipulates that elections will be held once the Israeli troops conclude their redeployment in the West Bank.

The Palestinians are fully prepared for the elections in terms of the legal aspect of the electoral system, training, and ballot boxes. As I said, the EU is our full partner in this matter.

[Al-Miliji] But since you have not reached agreement with the Israeli side regarding the redeployment of the Israeli army, it means the date for elections has not been set. Is that so?

['Urayqat] We, the Palestinian side, together with the EU, have announced that a date of 15 December has been set. We originally set the date for 15 October but elections cannot take place while the Israeli forces have not completed their redeployment. For elections to take place, the Palestinian authority must extend to the rest of the occupied territories. The Palestinian forces can then protect the election process. As for the technicalities required for the various departments and for defining these technicalities, full Palestinian autonomy should be established on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for elections to proceed. This is what we discussed in depth during our recent meeting with Rabin. But, as I said, we got no response regarding the issue of the redeployment of the Israeli forces.

[Al-Miliji] Did you not discuss the date with Rabin?

['Urayqat] No. The issue of elections is a Palestinian one. We told Rabin that the preparations have already taken place and we need to start discussing redeployment so that we can hold elections on the date we have set—15 December.

[Al-Miliji] Will the elections also include Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] Yes. According to the Declaration of Principles, the agreement stipulates the participation of the residents of east Jerusalem in the elections. This means they will vote, nominate themselves, and have polling stations in Jerusalem.

[Al-Miliji] Did you inform Rabin of this?

['Urayqat] Of course there were long discussions between us about this issue. God willing, next week we will start negotiations on this subject. We all know that the Oslo Agreement stipulated the participation of the residents of east Jerusalem in elections.

[Al-Miliji] So the Israeli stance on this subject is not yet clear?

['Urayqat] No. Yesterday we did not reach a final agreement. But I believe the Israeli stance will adhere to the stipulations of the agreement. The agreement stipulated participation and this means voting and nomination. But my colleagues and I will not be surprised if Israel stalls on the issue of the participation of the residents of Jerusalem.

[Al-Miliji] Dr. 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, a few days ago Faysal al-Husayni and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh left for Amman to meet the Jordanian brothers and get a briefing about what happened during the meeting between King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin and on what was stipulated in the Jordanian-Israeli Washington Declaration regarding Jerusalem. What happened in this regard with the Jordanian side or with the Jordanian brothers?

['Urayqat] We discussed this with them. What the Palestinian side fears are repeated Israeli attempts to strike at the unity of the Arab positions and unity among the Arab parties. The Palestinian stance is very clear. It is that Jerusalem is occupied territory and Israel should not be allowed to make any sovereign decisions or distribute the roles of nations regarding Jerusalem. The Jerusalem issue should be an Arab issue. Jerusalem is occupied Arab territory; these are occupied Islamic and Christian holy places. There should be a joint Arab strategy regarding this subject. The danger threatening Jerusalem is the continuing occupation, judaization, and settlement. I believe that this is what my brothers conveyed to Jordan and this is the stance that requires joint Arab mechanisms to protect and save Jerusalem.

[Al-Miliji] What was the Jordanian response?

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

['Urayqat] The Jordanian response was that the situation now is no different from what it was. There are attempts to prepare for a summit meeting between the president [Yasir 'Arafat] and King Husayn.

[Al-Miliji] Did the two sides discuss this summit meeting?

['Urayqat] This issue has been open for discussion for some time and consultations for convening such a meeting continue.

[Al-Miliji] Dear brothers, to conclude this meeting, we thank Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the PNA, who is with us now on the telephone line between Cairo and Jericho. We also thank him for being our guest on the Voice of the Arabs. Thank you Minister.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Letters to U.S., Others on Peace

JN1208085694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's press adviser, has stated that President 'Arafat has sent urgent letters to the leaders of the United States, Russia, China, and the European Union countries briefing them on the latest developments in the peace process.

'Arafat 'Disapproves' of Qaddumi Remarks

TA1108121694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat categorically disapproves of Faruq Qaddumi's remarks about the very existence of the State of Israel. In a meeting in Gaza with Jacques Neriya, a representative of the Histadrut labor federation, 'Arafat said that Qaddumi's remarks are incompatible with the Palestinian Authority's commitment to the agreements with Israel. I will abide by the agreements with Israel and I will honor all the letters I exchanged with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin concerning mutual recognition, 'Arafat stressed.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that it was decided in the meeting that 'Arafat would meet at the end of August with Histadrut Secretary Hayim Ramon. 'Arafat also instructed the heads of the Palestinian trade unions to discuss ways to cooperate with the Histadrut with Neriya.

Qaddumi Justifies Remarks

MM1108133194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ruba al-Husari and Muhammad 'Allam: "Qaddumi's Statements Overshadow Meeting, and Qaddumi Replies; Negotiations on Transfer of Powers Move to Gaza"]

[Excerpts] Erez (Gaza Strip)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday agreed to move the negotiations on the early transfer of powers to the Erez checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip next week. [passage omitted]

An Israel Government source has stated that Rabin strongly criticized the statements made by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, to the Voice of Palestine in Algiers about the destruction of Israel. [passage omitted]

When 'Arafat was asked about that, he said that Qaddumi was "repeating his own personal views. We are considering the matter."

In reply, Qaddumi, in a statement to AL-HAYAH, said that the part cited by Rabin of a speech he [Qaddumi] recently made in Algeria came from a report by the Israeli news agency "which was inaccurate." He explained that what he said was "that Israel emerged in history by force and it will end like other such entities ended." He emphasized that "the Palestinian people will continue their struggle for the restoration of their rights and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Qaddumi denied that there were differences between him and 'Arafat. He pointed out that what he said in his speech "represented the PLO's views, as I am its foreign minister." He said that Rabin disowned many agreements he had concluded with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Panel To Run Jericho After Mayor's Resignation

TA1208050994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] In Jericho, the various PLO factions have established a committee to run the municipality in the place of Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf.

A senior source at the Palestinian Authority told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Yasir 'Arafat had yesterday confirmed the mayor's resignation and the PLO chairman is now expected to authorize the new committee to begin managing the town's affairs.

The committee is headed by Hasan Barham, and it also includes a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representation.

'Arafat To Organize Meeting With Hamas in Gaza

TA1108173694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources in the Gaza Strip report that 'Arafat has authorized Muhammad Abu-Sardanah, a senior official in the Palestinian Authority, to try and organize a meeting between himself and the Hamas leadership. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that since 'Arafat came to the Gaza Strip he has not met Hamas representatives. A delegation of the Islamic Movement in Israel which met with 'Arafat this week rejected his request to mediate between the PLO and Hamas in the territories.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Hamas Claims Responsibility for Jerusalem Attack

TA1208103494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility for the attack near the Rockefeller Museum. The organization faxed a statement to the foreign news agencies in Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni on Peace Talks, Jerusalem Issues

Views Erez Talks

JN1108111494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, "head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio," by unidentified correspondent on 11 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, Good morning.

[Al-Husayni] Good morning to you.

[Correspondent] Abu-al-'Abid [al-Husayni], a Palestinian-Israeli meeting under President 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin ended at the Erez checkpoint yesterday. How would you assess the results of this meeting?

[Al-Husayni] We were expecting the meeting to be held earlier and that it would adopt quicker steps. The decision to expedite the transfer of powers, and to discuss outstanding issues such as the crossing points was important, as it is illogical to maintain the state of affairs as it is. We were also hoping that there would be results concerning the issue of the detainees.

[Correspondent] Has a deadline been set for implementing yesterday's agreement?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, another date was set to discuss the issue of timetables.

[Correspondent] With respect to the detainees, several female detainees were released. Is their release a result of the meeting?

[Al-Husayni] This issue was raised before the meeting. I believe that the announcement that these detainees will be released was made at a previous meeting, but the measure was only implemented yesterday.

[Correspondent] What is obstructing the release of the other detainees?

[Al-Husayni] Israel tries to bargain and obstruct things. This is a destructive mentality that, day after day, will make this operation devoid of content. If the Israelis do not change this mentality and if they do not decide that the peace process means closing all the files of hostility between us and them, then there will be dire consequences.

[Correspondent] Do you believe yesterday's agreement will have any impact on the future of the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Husayni] Let us say that yesterday's agreement could be a new sign if it succeeds and if the decisions made yesterday are implemented. This will certainly be a new step that will open a new page in the implementation of this agreement.

[Correspondent] Did yesterday's meeting touch on the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel on the issue of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, the issue was submitted. From their part, the Israelis reiterated that they remain committed to their stand under the agreement and that the Palestinians are the party with which negotiations will be held. The Palestinian side noted how serious it is for Israel to act in one way or the other on Jerusalem, away from the Palestinians. The Israelis gave justifications and defined stands. What is important in the end is that we have a feeling that the Israelis are trying to play a new game not only with respect to Jerusalem but with respect to the entire West Bank.

[Correspondent] Following the Washington Declaration, President 'Arafat has called for expediting the discussion of the Jerusalem issue. Has there been a response to such a call?

[Al-Husayni] Obviously, the agreement signed in Oslo and then in Cairo speaks about negotiations on Jerusalem to begin as soon as possible and during a period that does not exceed the beginning of the third year. I believe that Israel is now more amenable to expediting the discussion of this issue.

[Correspondent] What about the political siege that has been imposed on Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] At the last meeting, we understood from the [police] minister that he will take another step; that those above 40 years of age will not be obliged to obtain a permit to enter Jerusalem, and that other steps will follow. We hope that such steps will be taken but at a quicker pace so that the Palestinian masses will feel that this siege is being lifted.

[Correspondent] Will you hold other meetings with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. I believe that a meeting will be held next week.

[Correspondent] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, thank you.

Urges High-Level Jerusalem Talks

MM1108161894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p5

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Al-Husayni: Our Contacts With Jordan on Jerusalem Are Unsatisfactory and Should Be Raised to Leadership Level"]

[Excerpt] Gaza—Faysal al-Husayni, in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority, has told AL-HAYAH that the contacts with Jordan on Jerusalem do not prompt satisfaction and that "they are insufficient and should be raised to the level of the two leaderships."

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

He revealed that the Palestinian National Authority is waiting for Jordanian answers to questions he submitted to the Jordanian officials in Amman recently. He said: "We have received answers to some questions but some questions require additional answers and committees to deal with this matter." He said that the Palestinians are still concerned about the issue of Jerusalem despite the fact that "the Americans have told us that they are interested in this matter and that their position on Jerusalem has not changed." He added: "The Americans and the Europeans should have realized the seriousness and sensitivity of this issue a long time ago."

Al-Husayni warned that the continuation of the current Israeli position on Jerusalem would create a most tense situation. He called for the immediate start of negotiations on it and for an Israeli commitment not to introduce any changes in Jerusalem and to stop their activities aimed at changing the facts on the ground in Jerusalem pending the results of the negotiations, that is if they realize how sensitive this issue is. He emphasized that "Jerusalem is now a very hot issue."

Al-Husayni said that contacts are continuing with the Americans and Europeans in this connection, and also with the Jordanians. He urged reactivation of the joint committees with Amman and expressed the hope that "these contacts and committees will revive the [joint] steps by us and Jordan." He reaffirmed the importance of coordination between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority on the question of Jordanian King Husayn's visit to the holy city and the importance of raising the level of contacts with Amman to leadership level. [passage omitted]

Views King Husayn Jerusalem Visit

TA1108133194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni proposed to Yasir 'Arafat and to King Husayn not to visit Jerusalem as long as the occupation of the city continues. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that al-Husayni made these remarks after meeting in Orient House with representatives of foreign countries. He said that the issue of King Husayn's expected visit to Jerusalem came up in the meeting, and that he asserted that given the current state of affairs the king had better not visit the city.

Commenting on Faruq Qaddumi's remarks, al-Husayni said that the Palestinians signed the agreement with Israel and are committed to it.

Views Orient House Meetings

TA1108151894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni said today that the Palestinians will continue meeting foreign diplomats in East Jerusalem. He said this following a meeting with several consuls and European representatives at Orient House. Al-Husayni claims the meeting was legal, because the participants did not discuss issues relating to the Palestinian autonomy. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Political meetings were held in East Jerusalem's Orient House today. This time Faysal al-Husayni met consuls and European embassies representatives in Israel. Al-Husayni said such meetings are legal, because according to the Israel-PLO agreement the Palestinians are entitled to meet with foreign diplomats in East Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] We decided to hold this meeting in order to brief the foreign ambassadors about our situation, about how things stand with the Israeli authorities. We are not acting in the framework of the Palestinian Authority activity, but rather in the framework of the peace process.

[Yokhpaz] Al-Husayni clarified that meetings with foreign diplomats will continue to be held in Jerusalem. The consuls and embassies personnel, on their part promised to update their countries about the meeting. Robert Shutbaum, a British Embassy official, said that discussions with the Palestinians will continue to be held in Jerusalem. He said this does not contradict the Israeli-Palestinian agreement:

[Shutbaum, in English] The new Orient House is part of the peace process. For day-to-day practical solutions and discussions we have to address ourselves to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

[Yokhpaz] Faysal al-Husayni denied that police-style interrogations are taking place at Orient House. He said today he also met representatives of AL-NAHAR, the pro-Jordanian newspaper which 'Arafat has ordered to shut down. Al-Husayni told the correspondents it is very likely that the paper will be distributed again this coming Friday [12 August]. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 11 August reports that "the Palestinian leaders are continuing to establish in East Jerusalem institutions affiliated with the Palestinian autonomy. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who is in charge of finances in the autonomy, operates from an office located in one of these institutions, the Palestinian Statistics Center."]

Jordan-PLO Dispute Over Jerusalem Continues

MM1108110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Excerpts] Gaza, Information Services Center; Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An official at the Palestinian Information and Culture Ministry has refused to accept that visits to Jerusalem should be subject to special permits for Palestinian officials from Israel as a state occupying Jerusalem. Commenting on Dany Rotschild's statement, he said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the visits should not be made in such a humiliating way."

On 'Arafat's visit to Jerusalem he said: I expect a joint visit to Jerusalem by the Palestinian president and King Husayn of Jordan. It is not in King Husayn's interests to visit Jerusalem before President 'Arafat, for reasons related to

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Jerusalem's political status, as Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is entitled to visit Jerusalem first. [passage omitted]

The visit to Jordan by a Palestinian delegation including Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information minister in the self-rule authority, failed to bridge the gap in the dispute between Jordan and the PLO over Clause III of the Washington declaration, which consolidates Jordan's right of religious jurisdiction over holy Islamic sites.

Well-informed Jordanian sources have said that Jordan turned down a Palestinian request to concede religious jurisdiction, on the grounds that it weakens the Palestinian position in the final phase of negotiations over Jerusalem's future scheduled to be held in 1996. At the same time the Palestinians insisted on refusing to separate religious jurisdiction and political sovereignty over the city. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Christopher's 'Long Intervals' Policy

MM1108163094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Christopher and the Long Intervals Policy"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher cut short his tour of the region without achieving any public progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, promising to return in September in the hope that the proposals he conveyed to officials in Damascus and Tel Aviv will have been thoroughly discussed and examined in preparation for a decision on them.

Christopher's tour of the region cannot be described as a failure. Because the man achieved in it what no previous U.S. secretary of state could have dreamed of achieving. He sponsored the opening of the first crossing between Jordan and Israel. He made the first telephone call between the two countries, launching an important step toward normalization. And he pushed the peace process sponsored by his country another step forward.

It seems that Christopher believes in the long intervals policy in his negotiation approach. He also believes in giving the Syrians more time to think. And at the same time he is working to soften the Israeli position through the deep-breath policy. He clearly expressed this approach when he told the reporters accompanying him on the plane taking him back home that the Israeli-Syrian negotiations have surmounted "a psychological obstacle" and have been "useful." But he did not give any details.

What is certain is that Christopher will let Egyptian President Husni Mubarak continue his efforts with Syria to persuade it to accept the recent U.S. proposals, as happened with regard to most of Christopher's previous tours.

The U.S. official is aware that the peace process is in danger of collapsing if progress is not achieved on the Syrian track. Perhaps the Katyusha rockets fired by the Islamic resistance at north Galilee on the eve of his arrival in Damascus is a warning of what could happen in the future if the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon continues.

The striking thing is that Christopher, who met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has sent messages to the donor states urging them to quickly send the aid to the Palestinian National Authority to salvage the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

These messages would not have been sent had it not been for the U.S. secretary of state's feeling that the situation is serious and that the Palestinians have lost hope in the peace process and the U.S. promises of prosperity.

Christopher has the time to travel and think, but the region might not be able to wait. Recent handshakes and ceremonies cannot conceal the state of frustration and despair dominating the occupied territories as a result of the failure to fulfill promises and because of Israel's continued insults to Palestinians, whether its failure to release the detainees or its control of everything in the self-rule areas.

Peace begins with handshakes, but Israel wants it to end with them. The best proof of this is that it continues to deal with those who shake hands with it in a spiteful and arrogant manner. The Palestinian president's complaint about this treatment, which he mentioned recently to an Israeli newspaper, is evidence in this connection.

Paper Views Rabin-'Arafat Talks, 'Dire Situation'

TA1108173094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Foot-Dragging on Palestinian Demands"]

[Text] Yesterday's Erez meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin provided an opportunity for discussing many issues and topics relating to the continuation of the peace process and removal of the obstacles and difficulties that impede it. The meeting also provided an opportunity for drawing up the general outlines of the coming stage pertaining to the expansion of the Palestinian Authority's area of supervision to include all parts of the West Bank.

It is certain that the time devoted to the meeting was not enough to address and reach a definite resolution of all the problems and issues that had to be discussed, especially as Palestinian President 'Arafat said there are differences of opinion, but perseverance and resolve ensure that the difficulties can be overcome and the obstacles removed.

Undoubtedly, implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is facing more than one difficulty, particularly on the financial level. The donor countries are still persisting in their hard-line position with regard to providing the funds and aid which they had pledged to the Palestinians. This is something that threatens to halt the Palestinian Authority's services and activities and make daily life for Palestinian residents unbearable.

In light of this dire situation, the Israeli side must realize that the Palestinian problem is the core of the conflict in the region and that it should focus its attention on resolving this problem in a just and honorable way. This is the only guarantee of security and stability for all the peoples of the Middle East. Consequently, it is important to reach quick

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

and practical solutions to the problems that have appeared recently on the Palestinian- Israeli track and which were the focal point of the Erez meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships.

As long as the financial crisis which the Palestinian Authority is facing is not resolved; as long as the Israeli side does not comply with the Palestinian demand to release all male and female prisoners without discrimination; as long as maneuvers aimed at the nerves of Palestinians do not cease and Israel does not focus its attention on accelerating the implementation of its agreement with the PLO; as long as all this does not happen, the perils surrounding the peace process will increase and intensify and will threaten the future of the region and the security of its people without exception.

Fatah Wins W. Bank Engineers Association Election

TA1208081494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Fatah won the elections for the Engineers' Association of the West Bank-Jerusalem by a large majority. Fatah representatives will now manage the association's institutions.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Islamic Bloc won all nine seats in the elections for the Hebron University Student Council. The Fatah boycotted the university elections because of differences with the Islamic list.

Six Killed by 'Explosion' in Scrap Yard Accident

NC1008211294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Gaza, 10 Aug (MENA)—The Health Council in Gaza this evening held an emergency meeting under Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, minister of health in the Palestinian National Authority. The council decided to remove industrial and semi-industrial facilities from densely-populated areas in the strip. The Health Ministry asked scrap metal merchants to be specially careful while handling any suspicious metal object.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, said the meeting was held after an explosion occurred in a scrap metal yard in an overcrowded residential area in Gaza today. The explosion killed six people and injured seven others.

Economic Agreement Signed With U.S. Corporation

JN1108172694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] An economic cooperation agreement was signed today between the Palestinian Authority and the U.S. overseas investment corporation.

Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi says that according to this agreement, the U.S. corporation will streamline the relationship between the Palestinian Authority and the United States, and lay the foundations for the transfer of U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority during the interim period, which totals $500 million. The U.S. Administration will offer the Palestinians $125 million in the form of U.S. private sector investments to be used by the Palestinian private sector.

Ahmad Quray', the Palestinian Authority member in charge of the economy portfolio, has said that the launching of joint U.S.-Palestinian projects will be announced during U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to the self-rule areas next month.

Energy Center Begins Operating in E. Jerusalem

TA1108132994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Palestinian Energy Center, headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabir, began operating in East Jerusalem recently. The center has a branch in Gaza, and will open another branch in Jericho within the next few days. The Palestinian Authority is in charge of and finances the activities of the center.

PECDAR Source on Paying PNA Expenditures

JN1208090094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] A responsible source in the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR] said yesterday that the implementation of an agreement between the World Bank and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] began on 1 August. The agreement covers the transfer of $13 million a month to cover the PNA's current expenditures.

The source added that the $13 million is transferred to the PNA to cover the expenditures of the civilian administrations in both Gaza and Jericho, and that the salaries of the Palestinian police force members are not included in this.

The source added that the World Bank will be asked to increase the sum when the PNA's authority extends to the other Palestinian territories.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Algeria

U.S. Reported To View FIS Takeover 'Inevitable'

LD1108134194 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] London, Aug. 11, IRNA—A confidential U.S. State Department briefing paper is reported to controversially suggest that an eventual Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) government in Algeria may lead to the country being partitioned. The document, written by American specialists on Islamic affairs, is said to propose that the southern region of Kabylia, where there is a majority Berber population, could become independent. It also reportedly urges the U.S. to maintain contact with the leaders of the FIS, whose takeover in Algeria, it says, is "inevitable" and to agree joint exploitation of the oil resources in the Sahara region of the country.

The apparent aim is for Washington to replace France as Algeria's main economic ally, and according to THE EUROPEAN newspaper, has prompted criticism from the French interior minister, Charles Pasqua.

U.S. policy has been to maintain contact with representatives of the FIS in exile. The Islamic party had been set to win a landslide victory at the last elections before the army seized power in January 1992. The crisis in Algeria is considered a "powder-keg" on Europe's southern flank as France has been taking an isolated stance in propping up the military backed regime and single-handedly waging a clampdown against FIS supporters.

France's partners were under mounting pressure to break with the former colonial rulers, whose hardline policy was said to do more with the run-up to next year's presidential elections than Europe's broader interests.

Pledging a clampdown on the FIS this week, Pasqua put security forces on alert after arresting nearly 150 Algerians and banning five Islamic publications.

Scathing criticism about France's stance has been widely voiced in most of the British media, warning that such tactics are only likely to backfire on the west's interests.

Armed Islamic Group Lists Demands on France

MM1208111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Armed Islamic Group: Six Demands From France"—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH has received a copy of a statement issued by the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] summing up its position on France. After saying that France "committed major ugly crimes against the Islamic Algerian nation," it says that "it has in its possession confirmed information about the involvement of certain French Government parties in putting pressure on the repressive tyrant (the Algerian Government) to massacre unarmed innocent people."

The statement said that the GIA had challenged France twice: The first was when it released the three French diplomats "and gave them a message notifying all foreigners...that they should leave the country. It gave them a whole month...and we have the relevant videotape with the three diplomats." The second was when "the Special Intervention Unit [sariyyat al-tadakhkhul al-khas], whose members signed their names in blood, of the capital's battalion of the GIA stormed the French diplomatic residential complex in Dali Ibrahim, which was guarded by French gendarmerie. The yield was six French gendarmerie auxiliaries and the French Embassy's deputy consul in Algiers."

In what it described as the "third challenge," the statement listed the following demands:

"1. Exposure of those in the French Government who are in collusion and conspiracy with the renegade, repressive tyrant in the indiscriminate murder of inncent people in Algeria.

2. Payment of adequate compensation for the Muslims harmed as a result of the total and unconditional support for that tyrant since the coup.

3. Discontinuing aid for the tyrant, boycotting it, and taking a neutral stand on what is taking place in Algeria.

4. Evacuation of all French nationals from Algeria until such time as the GIA permits foreigners to deal with it in accordance with the rules governing non-Muslims living in Muslim countries [Ahl al-Dhimmah].

5. Willingness and agreement to deal with the GIA in accordance with the rules governing non-Muslims living in Muslim countries by paying taxes and dues and fulfilling the known requirements as in the books of jurisprudence.

6. Safeguarding the dignity and rights of Muslims in France.

The AIG threatened that "if these demands are not met" it would forcefully strike at French interests in Algeria."

FFS Agrees To Open Dialogue With Government

LD1208110894 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Algerian Government does not lack the desire to engage in dialogue: The day after last week's attack, President Liamine Zeroual called a new meeting with the country's political forces for 21 August. Thus far, Ait Ahmed's FFS—the Socialist Forces Front—has declined such invitations, but this time it has accepted. Said Khelil, its interim secretary general, told Jerome Bastion that what compelled a change in its attitude was the gravity of the situation. Said Khelil:

[Begin recording] [Khelil] As a matter of principle, let us say, we are in favor of dialogue; one should support it. Having said this, we have had our fingers burned somewhat in our previous experiences, and we will see how things go as the situation develops. However, something that appears to be different is that from the beginning the proposed dialogue was multilateral and there was no set agenda, and thus apparently no fixed starting point.

They are certainly inviting us to talks in order to put proposals to us, but there are no specific points set out in the letter which has been sent to us.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Bastion] Previously, one of the conditions set by the FFS was the participation of Islamic Salvation Front representatives.

[Khelil] I believe we must first work with what is possible; we have to get the parties together on the spot. The way we see things is that there is a movement, and we cannot ignore it; it is a sociological, political fact of life and we have to deal with it one way or another. However, we can make gradual progress: First of all the democratic movement can meet and then discuss matters. It can also get together with the government and proceed gradually in this way toward an overall solution. [end recording]

Transitional National Council Holds Session

LD1108141394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon the Transitional National Council ended its discussion of the document containing the government's program for the transitional period. Before the session ended the prime minister spoke, announcing that today or tomorrow he will present a plan supplementary to government's program, which will be passed on 13 August.

A roundup of the debates of the last three days is presented by my colleague Aicha Dagha:

[Dagha] Seventy-one speakers and 16 written documents contributed to the last three days'proceedings of the Transitional National Council's extraordinary session devoted to discussing the government's transitional program.

Points related to the country's security situation took precedence, with all calling for the restoration of stability and security before any task of the government was begun, particularly in this transitional period. Most members stressed the need to solve this dilemma politically via dialogue as the only way to solve the crisis. The focus was on holding a serious and genuine dialogue that included all Algerians. One speaker called on all the political parties to participate in the dialogue without regard to ideologies and narrow party interests, to place the interest of the country and nation above all other considerations, and to work to find solutions so that no opportunity would be left for attempts aimed at internationalizing the Algerian crisis.

The economic aspect of the government's draft program was also a major subject of concern. Most speakers asked about Algeria's future economic situation under the market economy system and the effects this would have on economic revival. Some speakers took the view that Algeria was able to meet these current economic transformations because of its abundant resources, mainly hydrocarbons. But they called on the government to take tangible measures to protect low-income groups from the possible negative results of entering the market economy.

The agriculture sector was also the subject of much discussion. Most proposals called for concern for rural areas and farmers by channelling financial and material support to them and lightening the debt burden from which farmers are suffering. [passage omitted]

As regards the form of the government program document, some members said it lacked accuracy and details and did not set priorities. Others asked the prime minister to disclose the file of Algeria's agreements with the IMF to them.

The prime minister, accompanied by members of his government, heard all the contributions and spoke yesterday to inform council members that today or tomorrow he would present a plan supplementary to the transitional government program. [passage omitted]

Sifi Addresses Council

LD1108215494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi at a Transitional National Council session in Algiers on 11 August—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Chairman of the Transitional National Council, ladies and gentlemen: On my behalf and in the name of the government, I am pleased to express my thanks to all the brothers and sisters who have made depositions regarding the discussion of the project of the program for the transitional period. I also thank them, in particular, for the efforts which were made in analyzing this document and for the proposals and recommendations put forward by them.

Personally, I was satisfied with the progress made at the working sessions we spent together. I was also honored at being in these meetings with Algerians who have a strong national spirit and are concerned about the situation the country is experiencing and the future of our dear homeland and our people. I am satisfied and determined to continue because I felt, from your depositions and comments, that the government is not alone and will never be alone in the struggle we are waging to implement the program for the transitional period.

This period and the implementation of the program will be a hard task. The difficulty in this regard is different from the difficulties we have faced drafting the document of the transitional program.

I have, together with the members of the government attending the meetings, taken notes of all the comments, inquiries, proposals, and recommendations. I will spare no effort to provide all the responses and clarifications you expect from me, in complete frankness and openness, which is one of the conditions that will allow us to achieve the break from the past we all foresee.

I will try to spare no effort to answer all your concerns, despite the fact that I am at this very moment wondering how, within an hour or two, I will be able to answer a long chain of the rich depositions made by 71 members, which lasted for about 24 hours, in addition to 16 written documents, some of which exceeded four or five pages. We can add to that this morning's document, which contained eight pages. Nonetheless, I will do my best to deal with all your comments, and I promise you that I will do my best to see that none of it is overlooked.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

However, I ask you to forgive me if I have inadvertently overlooked something already; only God Almighty is free from making mistakes and from forgetting.

I very much look forward to meeting you again. Until then, I wish to extend my warmest and sincerest thanks to you once again for your contributions to the enrichment of the government's program.

Once again, thank you very much; see you at our next meeting. May God's peace, prayers, and benediction be upon you.

Egypt

Birri Asked Mubarak To 'Intervene' With Israel

MM1108113094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Nabih Birri Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Requested Egyptian Intervention To Stop Israeli Attacks"]

[Text] Cairo—Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he has asked President Mubarak to intervene to stop Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and to get Israel to comply with what it says [in public], namely its desire to establish peace, by halting the frequent Israeli attacks and stopping besieging and killing people in Lebanese villages, and to stop trying to drive in a wedge and harm the Lebanese-Syrian relationship.

Birri stressed that that will not happen, whatever Israel does. Because Lebanon is a sovereign state, and Israel has no right to interfere in its internal affairs or decide with whom Lebanon should establish or sever relations. Birri denounced what Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said, namely that Lebanon does not enjoy full independence and that all its actions, especially in the military sphere, are subject to Syrian influence. He said that, if Israel wants to protect its security, it must achieve peace with all the Arab parties and withdraw from the south, because its presence in Lebanon harms its security. And Israel must realize that.

'Unforeseen' UN 'Threat' to Bosnians Denounced

NC1208065694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR denounces the United Nations' threat to launch air strikes against both the perpetrator—the attacking Serbs—and the victim—the Bosnian troops under attack. The paper says this threat is the latest trend being pursued by the United Nations after failing to stop the Serb aggression against the Muslim Bosnians.

In an editorial today, the newspaper refers to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's remark that Egypt and the Islamic states reject the policy of double standards pursued by the international organization, especially as the Serb aggressors are getting the lion's share of things while the European Union, Russia, and the United States are denying the victimized Bosnians even the right to buy arms to defend themselves.

The paper says that NATO troops should launch raids only against positions of the Serb aggressors, who have been surrounding the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, for months, preventing foodstuffs and medicines from entering, and who have gone too far in defying UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper points out that the UN threat to launch raids against the Bosnian troops, who are under attack, is surprising and unforeseen, adding that it raises questions about the soundness of the approach pursued by the international organization, which is responsible for peace and security everywhere.

Arabs Who Support Sanctions on Iraq Criticized

NC1108154494 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 8

[From the "Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Revenge is an Arab policy"]

[Text] While President Clinton's administration, the Western countries, and Russia are hesitant about imposing sanctions or taking stern measures against Bosnia's Serbs, whose challenge of international laws and resolutions has extended to attacking the UN forces and threatening the safe areas, the United States and Britain refuse to lift or lessen the sanctions imposed on Iraq. They are being backed by certain Arab countries, even though the reports prepared by the UN inspection teams unanimously say that Iraq has complied with the Security Council's conditions.

This arbitrary stance toward Iraq might satisfy some Arab countries and respond to the feelings of arrogance and the desire to avenge and humiliate the Iraqi regime as a punishment for the crime of invading Kuwait. Yet it is certain that the feelings of revenge and the desire to humiliate a fraternal Arab country, starve its people, and destroy its last shred of dignity does not make a policy; show farsightedness; or bestow power, status, or respect on any Arab party.

It is enough for these Arab countries still opposed to reconciliation with Iraq to ask themselves why the West is lax in its stance on the Serbs' aggression against neighboring peoples and why it repeatedly hesitates before implementing any of the Security Council sanctions and ordering NATO planes to stage minor raids that cause pain but do not kill and that scare but do not deter. This same West that is eager to implement every single clause of the Security Council resolutions against Iraq, goes all the way in imposing the sanctions, and even exceeds them in a humiliating way.

The extreme caution and the excessive concern with which the West is dealing with the Serb aggression in Central Europe stem from the realization of the importance of maintaining the region's security and stability and the ties of cooperation and understanding between its peoples so that the volcanoes of hatred and spite between Central Europe's peoples would not erupt should the major powers use military force in an excessive way. The West does not care about the Islamic countries' feelings or about implementing

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

the principles of international justice if the use of force would result in splitting up and weakening Europe or in arousing national and ethnic jingoism, and thus threaten to ignite a third world war. International justice is no more than a tool in the service of the major powers' interests.

But there is no objection to the most extreme use of violence and harshness in punishing an Arab country. No one in the West cares whether Arab divisions deepen and the general state of weakness turns into an overall national humiliation. Therefore, the United States and Britain are adamant on the issue of applying the sanctions against Iraq on the pretext that they are exacting justice on behalf of Kuwait or defending the security of this or that Arab country, even if this is done despite the desire of the majority and against the Arab League's resolutions and its peoples' interests.

As long as the motives of revenge and desire to avenge continue to motivate Arab thinking, others will have the right to decide our fate and we ourselves will be helping and asking them to do so.

Saddam Criticized for Detaining Kuwaitis

NC0908151894 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 5

[Editorial: "When Will the Iraqi People's Tribulations End?"]

[Text] Four years have passed since the greatest act of treachery and stupidity in contemporary Arab history was committed. By this we mean Iraq's invasion of the Arab state of Kuwait and the resulting actions and behavior, the likes of which we have not seen since the Tartar and Mogul invasions. This act had its own inevitable and natural end: the quick and crushing defeat of the invading forces that Saddam Husayn believed he could use to subjugate all the Arab Gulf states and seize their extensive oil wealth so that he alone could have the final word.

Though no one has shed a single tear over the Iraqi dictator's great disappointment that destroyed his sick mind's dreams and ambitions, the results, whose consequences continue to rain on the powerless Iraqi people, pain every Arab who regards all the sons of the Arab nation as his brothers and who shares their sorrows and is saddened by their suffering. But the continued presence of the man who was the cause of all the calamities and catastrophes that have befallen his people and country will only prolong the Iraqi people's suffering.

Saddam Husayn still believes that he is capable of continuing to challenge the whole world and that his procrastination in implementing the UN and Security Council resolutions will make him the sole and immortal leader in the region.

There is a glaring example of why it is impossible for the world to trust a government headed by a person with an abnormal mind and strange ideas. It is his position on the issue of thousands of Kuwaiti citizens whom he has detained in Iraqi dungeons and refused to return to their homeland and families even though four years have passed since the invasion of Kuwait. He is thus committing one of the ugliest violations of human rights. Had the international community insisted on trying him for the bestial crimes he and his aides committed during the occupation of Kuwait, it would have then closed a bloody page in Arab and human history, and the Iraqi people would have retrieved their freedom and their place among Arab and other countries.

Editor Criticizes U.S. Terrorism Policy

NC1008153794 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Terrorism, U.S. Contradictions, and a Welcome for the French Attack"]

[Text] I greatly admired the violent and virulent attack by the French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua on the United States; it was even a source of pleasure because it expressed what millions of people in the world, including Egypt, want to say.

This acerbic attack is unprecedented in the history of French-U.S. relations, according to the report sent by our correspondent in Paris William Wisa last Thursday [4 August] night. The French official's criticisms focused on Washington's bizarre policy towards extremists who use misleading Islamic slogans. In the accusations he leveled against the United States, Pasqua said that it is unacceptable for a friendly country to open its doors to receive the leaders of violent and extremist movements who plan criminal acts, referring in this instance to some leaders of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The interior minister has highlighted the differing French and U.S. policies toward the ruling regime in Algeria. He said that if this regime cannot be regarded as an example of democracy to be followed, then it is better than a totalitarian country ruled by extremists in the name of religion. In a clear reference to the confused and contradictory U.S. policy on this issue, Pasqua said: The whole world remembers that the Americans encouraged Khomeyni to reach power on the pretext that the regime of the shah—their friend—was undemocratic. Of course, they cannot now say that the Iranian regime is an example of democracy to be followed.

In a television interview, the French minister also berated the French media for being behind the propaganda given to the FIS leaders abroad.

The French minister's statements came in the wake of the terrorist attack on a French residential complex in Algiers, where five French citizens were killed, and following his decision to arrest seven leaders of Algerian extremism residing in France. For the first time, the French interior minister described the situation in Algeria as an attempt by terrorist elements to destabilize the existing authority through the use of force. He also said that the Algerian Government has to exert its utmost efforts to reform the economic situation and return to the democratic process.

It is important here to note that the contradictions in the U.S. stand on terrorism and terrorists are characterized by vagueness. For, at a time when the U.S. Administration and its departments are calling on the countries of the world to confront terrorism, we find that they are contacting and

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

holding secret meetings with individuals and groups that lead, encourage, and even plan terrorism.

Even worse than all this is the blacklist with which the United States is threatening some countries that sponsor terrorism, while it simultaneously allows terrorist leaders who publicly boast of committing the vilest crimes against unarmed citizens to reside on its territory.

On the basis of this contradiction, we would not be surprised if we soon see some countries accused of terrorism demand that this list should include the United States, too.

U.S. policy toward terrorism does not differ much from its policy on human rights. It uses this issue to exert pressure and serve its interests. It always turns a blind eye to any violation of human rights that conflicts with these interests. There are many examples of this. I mention here its stand on the human rights of the Palestinians and Lebanese, who are subjected to the ugliest violations and practices at the hands of the Israeli authorities.

This proves that violations of the much maligned human rights by loved ones and friends are sweeter than honey for officials in the U.S. Administration. I also mention the U.S. Administration's attempts to pressure China because of human rights violations and then its official retreat following China's firm rejection of this policy. This retreat happened in an official speech by President Clinton in which he announced that higher U.S. interests compelled Washington to ignore the question of human rights in China. The dispute thus ended with agreement to grant China most-favored-nation status in its commercial dealings with the United States. I already commented on this issue in a previous article entitled: "The World Is Made Up of Interests."

Besides the French minister's statements, the world was surprised to hear U.S. statements some weeks ago calling on the Algerian Government to negotiate with and talk to the terrorist groups that kill and frighten the Algerian people. Washington then retreated from this stand just a few days later, thus confirming its confused policy in dealing with the issue of terrorism.

On this occasion, we remember in Egypt how Washington opened its door to the bloodthirsty mufti of terrorism, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The U.S. departments then imposed a complete blackout about the way he had obtained a visa to enter the United States.

This 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman then became a "cowboy" in the U.S. media, which published his photographs and statements that implicated him in criminal actions carried out by terrorists and paid for by foreign powers allied to internal forces in order to harm our security and stability. The mufti of terrorism, 'Abd-al- Rahman, now in a U.S. prison, was a CIA agent who recruited the so-called mujahidin in the Afghan war. He remained a shining star in some U.S. organs until the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. There was an immediate 180-degree about face and this false mufti became an evil criminal after investigations carried out by U.S. authorities proved that he was behind the explosion and was the mastermind of other terrorist operations that were due to be implemented inside the United States... Praise the Lord.

No one denies Washington's right and freedom to adopt whatever policies serve its interests. What we are demanding is credibility, honesty, and an end to contradictions in dealing with certain issues, foremost of which is terrorism and the groups that sponsor, encourage, and plan it. This is not just the view of ourselves as Egyptian journalists, it is also the view of the U.S. media, which several months ago exposed the secret of the suspicious contacts that officials in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo held with illegitimate groups, which are not completely innocent of the charge of helping and backing terrorism and terrorists in word and deed.

Some say that some U.S. reports sent to embassies placed a mistaken emphasis on the dangers posed by the terrorists and on the situation in Egypt.

I have no comment about these secret contacts about which the U.S. media has spoken, other than that the leaders of these illegitimate groups are not ashamed to deal with U.S. emissaries while they are attacking the United States and its policies in the media that speaks on their behalf. Of course, it can be said that the only excuse for this behavior is to cover up and divert attention.

Finally, Egypt's firm stance on the issue of terrorism and terrorists and the heroic role of the Egyptian people in rejecting these criminal acts that target its security, stability, and existence and their staunchness in supporting and backing the security forces have completely turned the scales and revealed how shallow the thinking and the analysis of what is happening in Egypt is.

It has become clear that most of these analyses are incapable of understanding peoples' thinking, nobility, civilization, and long histories, relying instead on the claims made by some people who have opted for a stand hostile to our peoples' interests and who hope and dream of gaining the support and backing of foreign forces to achieve their aims.

What the French interior minister bitterly said about Washington's stand on extremism and terrorism must make U.S. officials and decisionmaking centers review this policy, which has become a big question mark.

Grievances of Workers in Libya Noted

NC1008081594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 28

[From the "Stands" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] I have many reasons to be happy with what the Libyan prime minister [title as published] has announced. I have heard many stories from Egyptians in Libya that constitute an official denial of what the Egyptian and Libyan officials say about relations between the two countries and the two peoples!

When I was in Libya two years ago I listened for a long time to Egyptian youths saying that they had not been paid for months and had not been able to send a single penny to their folks back home. They were scared to mention it. I conveyed their complaint, without naming any of them, and the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

officials were surprised to hear it. I later learned that their surprise led to nothing. Neither the Egyptians in Libya nor their mothers and wives were paid!

However, official delegations coming and going from Libya swear that the relationship between the two countries is smoother than silk and stronger than iron and that it was born to grow and live for eternity. Notice here that we often use the word "eternity" although no one will live that long to find out if this is true or not. It is only a matter of time before al-Qadhdhafi joins al-Sanusi [Libyan king deposed by al-Fatih revolution in 1969], the same as al-Sanusi joined Shushnaq I, II, and III!

We do not want the Egyptians to feel they are hostages in Libya should they stay or to feel they are unwanted if they return. Before the Lockerbie crisis when Libya was better off and had more money, it was very cruel and tightfisted toward Egyptian workers, so it must be even worse at present now that the water, the oil, and the dollar have gone.

I do not have much information, but I do have high hopes that Libya will erase all these accumulated mistakes and wipe out its sins against Egyptian families. I know that nobody, including peoples and governments, is without sin. All I want is for the toiling and hard-working Egyptian workers to get their rights, the same as they gave Libya its rights. This would please Egyptians here and there and make us believe what the officials at the highest level are saying. The impression the people have is that Libya is long on delegations and promises, but short on money!

UAE's Zayid Concludes 3-Day Visit, Departs

NC1208102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 12 Aug (MENA)—United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan left Alexandria today.

He was seen off at West Alexandria Airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the prime minister, and the ministers of defense, information, and foreign affairs.

Shaykh Zayid arrived in Alexandria from Jeddah on Wednesday [10 August] on a three-day visit, during which he met with President Mubarak and discussed bilateral ties and Arab and international issues.

Businessmen Conclude Economic Exchange Seminar

NC1008100994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian and Palestinian businessmen have agreed to establish a joint league of businessmen between the two countries to increase economic cooperation and trade exchange. Following a seminar on "Modern Trends in Business Administration" held in Cairo over the past four days, the Egyptian and Palestinian businessmen recommended increasing the exchange of visits by economic delegations.

The Palestinian businessmen stressed that they will seek to obtain Egyptian and Arab trade agencies and replace foreign goods with similar Egyptian goods in the self-rule areas. Participants in the seminar also recommended increasing administrative seminars to acquire further Egyptian expertise, which is noted worldwide.

During the seminar organized by the Arab Management Center for Administrative Development, the Egyptian and Palestinian businessmen discussed strategic planning, viability studies, enhancing the effectiveness of manpower in the two countries, and improving control systems. The seminar aimed to convey Egyptian administrative expertise to Palestinian businessmen to help them run the Palestinian economy in the self-rule areas.

Editorial on ICPD, Population Explosion Problem

NC0608120694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Egypt and the Next Population Conference"]

[Text] The eyes of the world have started to turn to Cairo, which will host the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] between 5 and 13 September 1994. This fifth in a series of population conferences is of more importance than previous ones as it will be attended by 40 heads of states, representatives of 121 countries, and 20,000 experts. More than 3,000 journalists will cover its proceedings.

The Cairo conference will differ from previous ones because for the first time a practical plan will be proposed to control the population explosion. The world population is increasing at the rate of more than 90 million a year. Preparations for this conference have taken several years to ensure that it will come up with practical resolutions for implementing this proposed plan and for sparing the world the dangers of the population explosion, particularly in view of the decrease in the world's food production, the increase in the waves of mass immigration from the poor countries to the rich ones, the migration from the countryside to cities, and the aggravating problem of refugees.

The conference agenda will undoubtedly include a long list of items in light of the diversity of the population problem and its bearing on the countries' economic, social, and political issues. It is natural to have diverse views about the means of confronting a sensitive issue such as that of population growth because of the diversity of the peoples' cultures and beliefs. But everyone will agree that the continued increase in population is threatening the future of the coming generations and swallowing up the present generations' development benefits. Hence, there will be no argument about the need to draw up a general framework to be implemented by the countries in accordance with their cultures and priorities.

Egypt is not unaffected by this grave problem. Like others, it is suffering from a population explosion. Its population is expected to increase to about 64 million by the year 2000. Egypt has already taken positive steps against this problem and its experience is praised and admired by the whole world. By following a wise family planning policy, it has succeeded in attaining the target of limiting population

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

growth by convincing the citizens themselves without upsetting their religious feelings or social ideals. Egypt's experience will undoubtedly be taken into account by the conference when it decides on the fateful resolutions.

Population Minister Views Problems

NC1008165594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of population and family affairs, today stated that it is urgent that we solve the population problem. He added that all countries have population problems involving high or low population densities.

In a lecture at the Staff Commanders College, Dr. Mahran said that the world's population grows by 1 billion every 11 years, and that Africa and the Islamic countries are the worst hit by this problem due to illiteracy and the complications of poverty and unemployment.

Minister Mahran added that the Egyptian population grows by 1.2 million every year, which undercuts development plans and complicates the tasks of providing food, education, health care, and jobs.

The minister said that by the year 2007 Egypt will face additional problems, including shortages of water. He added that the International Conference for Population and Development [ICPD], which will be held in Cairo from 5 to 12 September, was preceded by three years of preparations and that 15,000 participants will take part.

The population minister said that Egypt has repeatedly declared that it will not abide by any ICPD recommendation that conflicts with Islamic shari'ah. Al-Azhar, he disclosed, will issue a statement commenting on the ICPD recommendations and reiterating Egypt's position in this regard. Egypt, Dr. Mahran pointed out, rejects the use of abortion as a birth control method, disapproves of illegitimate and abnormal relations, and frowns upon sexual intercourse outside marriage.

The minister said that the conference will approve several recommendations that will help many countries, including Egypt, cope with the problems of illiteracy and unemployment. The ICPD is expected to call on rich countries to help developing countries confront the population problem, Dr. Mahran stated.

Minister Proposes Islamic Space Channel

NC0808194194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has called for establishing an Islamic satellite organization to preserve the Islamic identity and character and create some sort of international balance.

In a statement to the [Saudi] newspaper AL-MUSLIMUN, al-Sharif announced that he hopes that satellite channels will be established to serve as the Islamic world's mouthpieces and promote its causes.

The information minister pointed out that at one time he proposed establishing a space channel called Islamvision, in which all Muslim countries would participate. He added that this idea was later discussed at a conference of Arab information ministers and an Islamic Conference Organization information ministers meeting.

Morocco

Talks Held in Paris on Return of Exiles

LD0908132694 Rabat MAP in English 1253 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Paris, Aug. 09 (MAP)—Moroccan Ambassador to France Abbas Fasi and his top aides held lately here meetings with representatives of "The Rally of the Moroccan Political Exiled in France" and of the "Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Morocco".

The meeting was devoted to the administrative measures made by the embassy to facilitate return of the amnestied persons to their homeland in line of the royal decision.

The Association for The Defense of Human Rights in Morocco' favorably welcomed the royal amnesty decision in favor of the detained and political exiled and [word indistinct] the royal decision be accompanied by tangible measures that will allow the amnestied persons benefit effectively from the royal free pardon. [sentence as received]

Sudan

Libyan Delegation Continues Unity Talks

Meets Al-Bashir

EA1008202394 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug (SUNA)—President of the Republic Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir received here Wednesday [10 August], head of the Libyan delegation for integration talks between the Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Sulayman al-Shukhumi. Al-Shukhumi said in a statement following the meeting that he conveyed to Gen. al-Bashir the Libyan leadership's greetings. He pointed to the distinguished relations linking the two countries, hailing the Sudan stance towards the Libyan people who are facing a hostile campaign from the international forces of arrogance. The meeting reviewed progress of economic integration between the two countries as well as relations in all spheres in the context of the signed agreements [passage indistinct].

Joint Communique Signed

EA1108194594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 11 Aug (SUNA)—Following their negotiations on bilateral integration here last night, the Sudanese and Libyan sides issued a joint communique. It was signed for the Sudanese side by Minister of State at the

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Presidency Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz and for the Libyan side by Unity Conference Secretary General Sulayman al-Shukhumi.

Dr. al-Jaz said after the signing ceremony that the joint communique issued after the negotiations (?represented) the foundation stone and real watershed to drive forward the integration between the two countries. He said the communique had laid down the political line defining the correct path towards bringing down the barriers dividing the single nation. He said the Arab region was currently witnessing many innovations [words indistinct] the Arab nation. He went on to say that the blockade (?imposed) on the Arab nation would lead to the refining of the Arab individual. He stressed the determination of the leaders of the two countries to bring down all the barriers standing in the way of integration. He called on the Arab nation to bestir itself into restoring its glory.

Mr. Sulayman al-Shukhumi, the secretary general of the Libyan Unity (?Conference), said the communique was a real incarnation of the move towards the integration of the two countries. He said the negotiations had been dominated by an atmosphere of goodwill, [words indistinct] and practicality, confirming the desire of the two sides to transform the contents of the communique into a palpable reality so that this should become a unique example of cooperation and the bringing of the aspirations of the two peoples to realization. His excellency praised the achievements of the National Salvation Revolution, (?saying it had) come as an assertion of Arab unity. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Begins Tour of African Nations

EA1108162994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has left for Tanzania at the beginning of a tour of several countries in southern Africa.

Ambassador 'Umar al-Hadi told the radio correspondent that the purpose of the tour was to strengthen Sudan's relations with the African states in the context of diplomatic operations. He went on to say that the foreign minister would participate during the tour in the regional conference of Sudanese ambassadors accredited to Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Tanzania. The aim of the conference is to enhance and coordinate diplomatic activities in the region, as well as providing an opportunity for exchanges of views and information among the relevant ambassadors. Another purpose of the tour is to follow up the activities of the ambassadors in the context of the policy being pursued by the ministry geared to develop diplomatic activities.

Operation Begins Dropping Relief Supplies to South

EA1108212294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Aghbash, general commissioner for relief and rehabilitation, announced the operation to drop food and aid supplies to war-affected people in the south began today. Dr. al-Aghbash pointed out in a statement that the operations will start with Gogrial town in Bahr al-Ghazal State. He asserted that the air transport of relief from Entebbe to Juba is continuing and some 750 tonnes of food supplies have been delivered to Juba since the resumption of the airlift on 21 July. Now that there is a route, Dr. al-Aghbash indicated that a barge delivered 800 tonnes of supplies to the areas between Renk and Malakal.

The (?initial) relief flights loaded with 700 tonnes of relief [as heard] is dropping relief to the areas between Tonga and Fanjak. He said that a third barge has completed distribution of 750 tonnes of relief to the Sobat-[word indistinct] area.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Saudi Arabia

Source: 'Biased' People Cast Doubt on Peace Role

LD1108182394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Jeddah, 11 Aug—In response to a question on some people casting doubt on the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Middle East peace process, an official source told SPA, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from the start, followed a clear line in the Middle East peace process. That line was based on rejecting injustice and aggression.

"The Kingdom stressed its position verbally and actively during all circumstances and occasions to push the peace process forward and to achieve more progress in the negotiations between the Arab and Israeli sides—which were begun and followed up by His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton."

The source added, "The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, embodied the Kingdom's position towards peace when he said in one of his statements: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia backs all progress achieved by the negotiators on the path to lasting and just peace."

Concluding his statement, the source questioned, "After that clear and frank position by the Kingdom on the Middle East peace process some biased people are trying to cast doubt on it."

Editorial Criticizes 'Headlong Rush' Into Talks

JN1208081094 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Israel's Successful Strategy"]

[Excerpt] Witnessing the headlong rush by some Arabs into talks with Israel, one can't help being alarmed by the unfolding drama. Confidence building measures cannot possibly be defined in terms of a crossing point, much less direct telephone links.

Conventionally, neither of the parties to a given settlement should score gains at the expense of the other. Nor should concessions be one-sided. The way things are going in the talks between Israel and both the Palestinians and Jordanians does not point in the direction of a positive peace.

The outlines of the strategy on which Israel joined the peacemaking process with the Arab world are now well defined. The Madrid formula, along the lines of which the Arabs agreed to negotiate with Israel, has now taken a back seat. That formula envisaged simultaneous movement on all tracks as well as inter-Arab coordination and was supposed to ensure that Arab interlocutors were not taking on Israel individually.

What is taking place now confirms Israel's negotiating strategy of compartmentalizing issues and giving precedence to secondary matters over primary ones. The Palestinians now realize that they might have waited before taking up Israel on its Gaza-Jericho offer. With Israel placing such emphasis on procedure rather than substance in its dealings with the Palestinian self-rule authority, Palestinians under occupation are asking if that accord has brought them any dividends or any closer to the attainment of their rights.

Jordan would be well-advised to learn from the Palestinian lesson and coordinate moves with the other Arab parties involved in the peace process whose negotiations with Israel are bogged down. We fear that Israel will abuse the goodwill Jordan is showing at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Bosnian Ambassador Praises Support Efforts

LD1108192294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1914 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 11, SPA — Bosnian Ambassador Tahir Beresdric praised Saudi support for the Bosnian cause and pointed to efforts exerted by the Saudi monarch, crown prince, and people on political, moral, humanitarian, and financial levels to help the Moslem people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a statement to the press published today, the Bosnian ambassador described the Saudi position on the Bosnian crisis as one of the most noble and sincere ones and pointed out that the kingdom was one of the first states to recognize the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also pointed out that King Fahd has invited hundreds of Bosnian Moslems to perform pilgrimage at his expense and stressed the monarch will also finance a project to build a city for displaced Bosnians.

He said many Bosnian war victims are being treated in Saudi hospitals and praised the efforts exerted by the high fund raising commission headed by Riyadh Governor Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Yemen

Sanaa Says YSP Must Expel Separatist Leaders

NC1108161394 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Report by Hasan Haydar]

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Aug 11 (AFP)—The southern-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) will only be allowed to play a role in Yemeni politics if it expels separatist leaders who tried to set up a breakaway state, the Sanaa government warned Thursday.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah told AFP the YSP "cannot claim to have a future role (in politics) until it expels all its separatist leaders."

The warning followed a three-day meeting of the YSP politburo in Damascus, where party officials expressed their "attachment to the unity" of Yemen but ignored a call from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to oust separatist leaders, whom Sanaa accuses of having provoked the two-month civil war.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The meeting was attended by 11 of the 20 members of the politburo, a quorum, and by several members of the central committee and parliament, officials said.

On Saturday [6 August], Salih called on the YSP to "purge the separatist traitors from its ranks."

The YSP on Wednesday condemned the civil war which broke out on May 5 but called on Yemenis to "place the interests of the country above personal ones" and not wreak revenge.

The decisions to wage war and break away from the north were "false decisions that in no way express the real conviction of the socialist party and its policy of union," the politburo statement said.

The YSP's 16 top leaders, including former vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid, are excluded from a general amnesty announced by Sanaa on May 23, two days after a breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic had been proclaimed in the south.

Basindwah said the YSP could not "condemn a war which strengthened Yemeni unity" and he blamed the YSP's "separatist behaviour" for the conflict which ended when northern troops seized the southern port city of Aden on July 7.

The minister also rejected a YSP appeal to resurrect a reconciliation accord signed by Salih and al-Bid on February 20.

"Legitimacy cannot be found in such an accord but in the April 1993 general elections," he said, interviewed by telephone from Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates.

He dismissed the outcome of the YSP meeting, saying the politburo had merely "agreed to disagree."

The YSP urged the government to lift restrictions on its offices, property and publications.

The politburo statement made no mention of al-Bid, who has been sheltering in Oman since the end of the war.

Salih called for the exiled leaders to be extradited Sunday, saying they should be tried as "war criminals."

Further on Socialist Party Meeting in Damascus

Secession Decision Renounced

NC1108141594 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Damascus, Aug 11 (AFP)—The southern-based Yemen Socialist Party has called for Yemeni unity and attacked its decision earlier this year to secede from the north after civil war broke out.

The party's Politburo wound up a three-day meeting here Wednesday [10 August] with a statement expressing its "attachment to the unity of (Yemen) and a commitment to an overall national reconciliation."

The YSP also condemned the two-month civil war which broke out on May 5, but called on Yemenis not to wreak revenge but "place the interests of the country above personal ones."

The decisions to wage war and breakaway from the north were "false decisions that in no way express the real conviction of the Socialist party and its policy of union," the statement said.

Southern Yemenis have repeatedly accused the north of starting the civil war, while the north has denounced southern leaders as "traitors" and "war criminals."

The war ended on July 7 when advancing northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih seized the southern stronghold of Aden.

The Politburo statement made no mention of the party's leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who had announced the creation of the breakaway independent republic in southern Yemen on May 21. He has been sheltering in Oman since the end of the war.

The statement also called on the thousands who sought refuge in neighbouring countries after the war, giving "clear" instructions to them "to return to Yemen."

The meeting was attended by 11 of the 20 members of the politburo, a quorum, and by several members of the Central committee and parliament, officials said.

Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a northerner, from the Sanaa government was present in Damascus throughout the meeting but did not attend, Yemeni sources said.

Damascus Reports Statement

JN1108163794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has expressed its thanks and appreciation for Syria and its struggler President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for facilitating the convocation of the YSP Political Bureau meeting in Damascus.

A statement issued yesterday at the conclusion of the YSP Political Bureau meeting, chaired by Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, called for an overall national reconciliation. The statement denied that the secession decision expresses the YSP's real convictions and unionist line.

The statement said the first step toward the elimination of the traces of war lies in pooling the efforts of all political organizations and bolstering the broad national alliances and coalitions on the basis of adherence to the option of unity and democracy and by placing the country's supreme interests above factional and personal ones. The statement called on the political and military leaderships and the YSP cadres and supporters to return to the homeland in order to participate in political life and overcome the traces of war. It also stressed the need to look after the refugees abroad and solve the problems facing them.

'Sons of Yemen' League Leader Defends Stance

MM1108164094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "South Yemen vice president and leader of the Sons of Yemen League," by unidentified correspondent in Jeddah; date not given]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The campaign is intensifying against you personally in the Sanaa media and by the Sanaa leadership in particular. Why are you targeted by the media?

[Al-Jifri] I have not been surprised at that. The Sanaa regime—with its head—does not tolerate anyone except the submissive and subservient. The regime goes mad if it fails to humiliate men, especially in the south. Besides, the mythical steadfastness of valiant Aden has aroused the spite of the regime and its elements. At any rate, we are not good at their language of insults and false accusations. Our families and leaders who brought us up did not teach us this foul language. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Voices from your party's leadership in Sanaa are condemning your position and supporting the regime.

[Al-Jifri] Differing views are evidence of life. We blame no one, since we are aware of the delicate situation people are experiencing under martial law. We forgive anyone who makes false accusations against us. Time will prove that we adopted a rightful position against falsehood. And our hearts will remain open to all colleagues, and every [Sons of Yemen] League member will become proud when time proves that we did not conspire, lie, or sell out, and that what causes the Sanaa regime's grudge against us is its inability to buy or terrify us. The regime likes no one except the low, the frightened, and the submissive. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Jarallah 'Umar said in a statement published by AL-KHALIJ newspaper something to the effect that "the Socialist Party must sever the alliance's link with the league and al-Jifri." What is your opinion.

[Al-Jifri] If brother Jarallah 'Umar said what has been published, I say he is entitled to say it. Maybe he has found out that the Socialist Party's alliance with the league is not in his interests. We will not regard his view as the Socialist Party's, unless it is officially announced by the Socialist Party. Especially as we have read in AL-KHALIJ newspaper other views contradicting his, like those of brothers Abu-Bakr Badhib and Haydar al-'Attas. And the Socialist Party General Secretariat issued a statement contradicting what brother Jarallah 'Umar said. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are your future plans?

[Al-Jifri] To develop the alliance with all the colleagues of one battle and one trench without exception. And to return to the land to purge it of the invasion, occupation, corruption, and the corrupt by every means. We want the regime in Sanaa to understand that we are not advocates of sedition or warmongers. We are advocates of peace, security, and stability. But we are not weak or miserable, and our people will not accept insults or humiliation. [passage omitted]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Assembly Speaker Receives British Delegation

JN1108201494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met with David Steele, official in charge of foreign relations in the British Liberal Democratic Party, and the delegation accompanying him. He explained the Assembly's duties and the major role the people's representatives are playing through the permanent committees of the Assembly in extending the best services to the citizens and bolstering democracy in the country.

Saddam Cables King Husayn on Accession Anniversary

JN1108192894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 94

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's congratulatory cable to King Husayn of Jordan—date not given]

[Text] Your Majesty, brother King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: On the anniversary of your accession to the throne, we are pleased to send your majesty our heartfelt congratulations, wishing you good health and happiness and the fraternal Jordanian people every progress and prosperity. God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Saddam Husayn

Iraq Said Receiving Only 7 Percent of Food Needs

JN1108152794 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 11, INA—A representative of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Iraq disclosed that the assistance the international organisations offered to Iraq did not meet but 7 percent of Iraq's agriculture and food needs.

FAO representative in Baghdad Mr. Amir 'Abdallah Khalil has made it clear in an interview to AL-'IRAQ daily for today that the joint mission of the organization and world food programme that visited seventeen provinces in Iraq in July 1992 and held interviews with farmers, merchants and town inhabitants as well as carried out surveys to markets, had prepared a report in which it pointed out that imposing the blockade resulted in the existence of food shortage and spread of human sufferings due to that.

He added that the mission's report had had big world effect and drew a world-wide attention as world media and press gave prominence to confirm the big impact on the people of Iraq at human, economic, and social levels.

The FAO representative praised the rationing card system employed by the Government of Iraq, which managed to provide between 50-60 percent of food needs of the Iraqi family and said that without that system, the situation under the circumstances of the blockade would have been different of what it was now despite the living hardships the Iraqi citizen was facing as success of the rationing card system had led to limit the citizens suffering.

The FAO representative stressed that the actual needs of Iraq exceeded 100 million dollars and Iraq had many times demanded the release of its frozen assets to use them in importing its agricultural needs.

KDP, SAIRI Discuss Ways To Solve Differences

JN1108151594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] A meeting was held at 1100 on Wednesday, 10 August, between a delegation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI].

Discussion focused on ways to further enhance the significant role of the unified Iraqi National Congress in leading the opposition, as well as the prevailing situation that the recent battles in Kurdistan have produced. Both sides stressed their desire to overcome differences by resorting to democratic and civilized means and to preserve the gains made during and after the uprising.

The two sides also asserted that permanent normalization, as well as returning the situation to its previous state are extremely important for solving all differences. The meeting was attended on the SAIRI side by SAIRI Political Bureau member Dr. 'Adil Mahdi, Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Tayil, Abu-Shayma', and Haydar Ja'far, while it was attended on our side by KDP Political Bureau members brothers Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Izz-al-Din Barwari, Adhab Barwari, and Central Committee member brother Nizam-al-Din Guli.

The meeting lasted for approximately two and a half hours, amid an atmosphere of joint understanding.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

U.S. Compromise Proposal on Golan Rejected

Proposal Described

TA1108181594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Discussion between political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the National Defense College in Tel Aviv and moderator Ya'aqov Eylon in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Eylon] We have new details about the negotiations between Israel and Syria. The United States has worked out a compromise proposal according to which Israel will implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights over a two-year period. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked Secretary of State Warren Christopher not to submit this proposal to the Syrians for the time being. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen joins us from the National Defense College. 'Imanu'el, what are the details as you know them?

[Rosen] Good evening to you, Ya'aqov. It is important to note that so far it has been claimed that there are no American compromise proposals. It was said that the Americans are only mediating between Israel and Syria. Well, such a compromise proposal does exist, and as you said, the prime minister asked the Americans not to submit this proposal to the Syrians at this stage. The American proposal bridges between the Israeli idea of a four-year withdrawal period from the Golan Heights and the Syrian proposal calling for one year. The Americans propose to carry out a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights over a two-year period and in three stages. Each of these stages will be accompanied by parallel Syrian normalization stages. The Americans suggest that full diplomatic relations be established only after the withdrawal is completed in the third stage. The Golan Heights will be completely demilitarized and U.S. and international forces will be deployed there. On the Israeli side only a token demilitarization will be implemented. The issue of the international border—whether it will be based on the 4 June 1967 borderline or the recognized international border—will be decided in a summit meeting between the prime minister and President al-Asad.

[Eylon] Why was it decided to implement the withdrawal over a two-year period?

[Rosen] This is indeed an interesting question. Israel proposed four years, but al-Asad made it clear to the Americans that under no circumstances will he agree to a plan which would end after the next elections in 1996. He does not trust the next government to implement this agreement. This is why the Americans proposed two years, which is somewhere between Syria's one year and Israel's four years.

[Eylon] What's preventing Rabin from giving Christopher the green light to convey this compromise proposal to Damascus?

[Rosen] Rabin believes the timing is not right. He asked Christopher for thinking time until the secretary's next visit in September. It is important to note that Christopher is convinced that Rabin's go-ahead for this compromise proposal will be followed by a Syrian agreement and by very quick progress which will result in a summit meeting between Rabin and al-Asad in Washington in the next few months.

Rabin Rejects Proposal

TA1208064294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected a U.S. compromise proposal to implement a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights within two years. Yesterday, Rabin said that he hoped the United States would maintain its role as an intermediary between Israel and Syria and refrain from presenting new initiatives to resolve the conflict. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is demanding that in the framework of a peace agreement, Israel complete its withdrawal from the Golan Heights before the next Knesset elections. This transpires from a U.S. compromise proposal made by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the course of his discussions here this week. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected the proposal, saying yesterday that Israel was not interested in U.S. proposals. Rabin said that the United States should strictly limit its role to that of an intermediary in the negotiations between Syria and Israel.

[Rabin] I greatly appreciate the American position which understands that their role is not to present bridging proposals or compromises, but rather to primarily view both parties—Syria and Israel—as those responsible for ending the state of war and building an edifice for peace. Until now, America—and I believe this will remain the case in future—has adhered to this modus operandi and will not attempt to present proposals.

[Segal] But could your agreement lead to the presenting of such a proposal?

[Rabin] I see no reason for America to change its way of handling matters. Until today, it worked very well and this led to two or three agreements. This is how things should continue.

[Segal] The Prime Minister's Bureau denied that any U.S. proposal had been submitted; however, a senior political source yesterday confirmed the information. The source claimed that a verbal proposal had been made during Christopher's meetings in Jerusalem. This was no written or consolidated proposal, but rather some remarks made by Christopher during his talks with the prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Withdrawal Offer Denied

TA1208045994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Sources in the Prime Minister's Office deny that Jerusalem has received compromise proposals by the United States on an accelerated withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

The REUTER news agency yesterday reported that a senior official in Lebanon, who insisted on anonymity, said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had given Syria word of an Israeli willingness for a total, but gradual withdrawal from the Golan. REUTER said Christopher would return to the Middle East next month to hear answer from both sides on the proposed ideas.

The Likud caucus at the Knesset has demanded that Prime Minister Rabin bring elections forward because of reports that he made new proposals to the Syrians on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Likud caucus says these proposals contradict Rabin's elections promises. The caucus also demanded that the prime minister immediately disclose to the Knesset the details of his reported proposal to Syria.

Envoy Denies 'Compromise'

TA1208082894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to United States Itamar Rabinovich by correspondents Ge'ula Even and Itay Engel; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Engel] Good morning to Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and the head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Syria.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Engel] First of all, what is your initial reaction to reports over the past day of a compromise proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the timeframe involved?

[Rabinovich] My reaction is very straightforward. There was never any U.S. compromise or bridging proposal. Therefore, the report is simply wrong.

[Engel] However, putting timeframes aside, is Israel prepared in principle to conduct a full, albeit gradual, withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] No, Israel has never expressed its readiness to implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. These reports are baseless as well. [passage omitted]

[Engel] Syria's demands have raised an issue that we may perhaps address to you as well as to the members of the Labor party representing Israel in the negotiations. I am referring to the possibility that if and when a Likud government assumes power in Israel in the next elections, it could take a totally different view regarding peace with Syria and its attendant concessions. Does such a consideration feature in your talks?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think that the negotiations are conducted on a partisan basis. I think that the conception of time at the basis of Israel's position must take into account security needs as well as much wider considerations pertaining to Arab-Israeli peace. If we review the arrangements reached with Arab partners in the past, they always contain a timeframe, and I think that any attempt to interpret these issues on a partisan or election-related basis would be mistaken. [passage omitted]

Rabin Urges Cooperation Against 'Islamic Terror'

TA1108184894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says Israel must cooperate with moderate Arab and Islamic states and with the international community in order to curb the growing wave of extremist Islamic terror and deal with it. Addressing graduates of the National Defense College, Rabin said that the country which is responsible for this terrorism also harbors plans for military buildup, and we must prepare for this both from the political and military viewpoints.

Mr. Rabin believes Israel has a chance of reaching a peace agreement with Syria and Lebanon as well, but it will be required to make compromises and take chances. The prime minister emphasized that the military threat coming in Israel's direction from the Arab countries has not yet been removed. Even if this danger has been reduced, we must not forget the wars of the past and would do better to learn the appropriate lessons.

Mr. Rabin warmly praised Major General Yosi Ben-Hanan, the outgoing head of the National Defense College, who is retiring from the Army. He will be replaced tomorrow by Brigadier General Yitzhaq Brick, who will be promoted to the rank of major general.

Speaking to correspondents after his speech at the National Defense College, the prime minister said the gaps in the positions between us and Syria are still wide. At this stage the negotiations with Syria are being conducted through Christopher's shuttles. We agree to this only because we are interested in continuing with the process.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that addressing the criticism leveled against the chief of staff regarding his statements on the security budget, the prime minister said that the chief of staff is obliged to present to the cabinet his own truth.

Peres on Sha'th Plans To Visit Jerusalem

TA1208072394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Foreign Minister Peres about the importance of the visit to Jerusalem by Nabil Sha'th.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted]

[Katzenell] Sir, the visit by Nabil Sha'th to the Temple Mount mosque—is this an important event for Israel?

[Peres] No, it shows that the holy places are open to all believers.

[Katzenell] Are we going to see Yasir 'Arafat coming?

[Peres] He did not ask for permission to come. [end recording]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Peres was interviewed after addressing a mission of the United Jewish Appeal. In his speech, the foreign minister said he believes the early empowerment in towns like Nabulus and Ramallah will be achieved soon. He disclosed that although the Palestinians were enthusiastic about early empowerment in the fields of education, health, tourism, and welfare, they were not excited about collecting their own taxes.

[Begin Peres recording] I must say that in the beginning, the Palestinians were very much reluctant about taxation because they were under the impression that if you want to be popular, do not collect tax—people do not like to pay it. I mean, basically they were right but when you do not collect tax, there is nobody else to pay for your expenses. You do not collect tax because you want to please somebody or please yourself. I do believe that we are very close to concluding this chapter as well, and really extend the autonomy to cities like Nabulus or Ramallah where there are centers of Palestinian existence. Mind you, we do it not because somebody was threatening us, not because guns were firing or because superpowers were pressing. We did it as a honest to God choice for Jewish destiny. [end recording]

Peres on Legality of Orient House Meetings

TA1108153294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has instructed the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser to check the legality of the meeting held by Faysal al-Husayni in Orient House in East Jerusalem with representatives of the European countries. Our Knesset correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports:

[Begin recording] [El'azar] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is currently addressing a meeting of the United Jewish Appeal in the Knesset building. As he entered the building, we asked him to comment on the meeting between Faysal al-Husayni and European ambassadors in Orient House.

[Peres] The legality of the meeting is currently being examined. If Faysal al-Husayni is an official or unofficial member of the Palestinian Authority, then this definitely constitutes a violation of the agreement. If he is a private citizen, then in accordance with existing laws it is altogether a different story. Evidently this is a borderline and, in my opinion, an unnecessary event.

[El'azar] Peres said he ordered the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser to check the legality of al-Husayni's action. The foreign minister also commented on Faysal al-Husayni's remarks that only the PLO leader has the right to invite world leaders to Jerusalem.

[Peres] Who is Faysal al-Husayni to invite world leaders? What is he to the world? Does he have any official standing? Does he represent any country or anything? This is tantamount to somebody sending an invitation from, say, the pages of QOL HA'IR [Tel Aviv local news weekly]. It is exactly the same.

[Unidentified correspondent] You seem to be holding a grudge against Faysal al-Husayni.

[Peres] No, I do not have anything against him. Quite the contrary. I only think that he is not authorized to make such announcements. In my opinion, it borders on the absurd.

[El'azar] Peres did not mince his words when asked about Faruq Qaddumi's remarks. The time has come for the man to reach conclusions about all the nonsense he uttered in the past, Peres said. Nevertheless, he pointed out that as far as he is concerned the Faruq Qaddumi case is closed. [end recording]

Experts Present Options for Jerusalem Sovereignty

TA1108132794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p A3

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpts] A think tank of experts from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, which is discussing the permanent status of Jerusalem, has recently presented several options for the suspension of sovereignty over disputed parts of East Jerusalem for several dozen years or for the establishment of a condominium in the eastern part of the city.

The institute's think tank is in constant contact with the policymakers and occasionally presents them with position papers. A month ago, the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs discussed another recommendation by the team regarding a series of urgent steps aimed at bolstering Israel's status in the city that should be taken before the negotiations on the permanent status begin in 1996.

Professor Rut Lapidot, an expert on international law who is a member of the team, said yesterday that the suspension of sovereignty over disputed areas in Jerusalem for a period of 30 years is an option that should be considered. She urged that the city problems be dealt with practically, through a distribution of authorities. [passage omitted]

Prof. Lapidot stated that the preferable option would be attaining an agreement on the issue of sovereignty. "But," she said, "such an agreement seems impossible to attain in today's reality. The only way to neutralize and bypass the sovereignty problem is through freezing, neutralizing, or suspending the application of sovereignty over parts of Jerusalem."

Prof. Lapidot noted that in this day and age sovereignty is no longer an absolute term. When a country gives powers to an international organization or another country on its own territory, this attests to a limitation and devaluation of sovereignty and, from certain aspects, its declining relevance when compared to its past importance.

Prof. Lapidot presented several possible alternative models for condominiums

- a regime in which two or more countries rule a certain territory, on an equal basis, based on a specific arrangement between them;
- Two sets of governing institutions of the two countries working in parallel for the execution of governing powers.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

- Joint governing institutions which execute governing powers together.
- A distribution of authorities between separate governing institutions of the two countries.
- A distribution of authorities on a personal, not substantive, basis. That is, each of the two countries will have authorities which apply to specific groups of the local population.
- A combination of the above models: A separate and parallel execution of certain authorities, a joint execution of other authorities, and a distribution of certain authorities according to a substantive and/or personal basis. [passage omitted]

Ora Ahime'ir, head of the team, noted that so far the team only held debates on the issue and has not yet drafted a recommendation. At the same time, she said, "the team has managed to slightly free itself of the concept that sovereignty is indivisible." [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Wound Three Policemen in Jerusalem

TA1208095194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Police forces and members of the antiterror unit have closed off part of East Jerusalem's al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood and carried out intensive searches for three East Jerusalem residents who this morning fled from a car out of which gunshots were fired at policemen.

The incident occurred near the Rockefeller Museum and three policemen were wounded in the shooting, one of them seriously. The shooters' car was later found abandoned with one of the assailants inside. He had been badly wounded. The car also contained weapons and the men were apparently members of a terrorist squad who had aroused the policemens' suspicion while on their way to carry out a terrorist attack.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that at one point, it was believed that the three men were hiding in a house in al-Shaykh Jarrah; however, this has not been ascertained.

As for the condition of the three wounded policemen: One of them, who was seriously wounded, has been operated upon. A second policemen, who sustained moderate injuries, is now undergoing an operation. The wounded terrorist is also being operated upon.

Danish Observers Criticize 'Poor Cooperation'

LD1008114094 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1030 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The Danes who worked as observers in Hebron after the massacre there in the spring are now seriously criticizing Israel for poor cooperation. It says in a report to the Danish Foreign Ministry that the Israelis hindered the observers in their work and imposed a curfew on them several times. Similar criticism has been conveyed by Norwegian and Italian observers in Hebron.

Sharon: Likud Will Not Advance Oslo Accords

TA1108173594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon says once the Likud returns to power it will make sure that the Oslo accord with the PLO will not be advanced, in his words. Sharon spoke with a Qol Yisra'el reporter while on a tour of the Jordan Valley and Jericho. He said his main objective will be to stop the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Defense Agreement Signed With Papua New Guinea

TA1108152394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p A6

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met yesterday with Paul Tohian, the defense minister of Papua New Guinea, who will be staying in Israel for eight days on his first-ever visit to this country. Rabin and Tohian signed a memorandum of security cooperation.

Tohian thanked Rabin for the invitation to visit Israel, and pointed out that in the course of his visit he will study and examine the possibilities to meet his country's security needs.

Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri gave him a briefing about the defense establishment and the abilities of the military industries in various areas. Tohian will tour the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], Israel Aircraft Industries, Israel Military Industries, and Elbit.

Rabin Warns of IMI Closure

TA1108132194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p C1

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Text] At the beginning of the week, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin rejected the strategic recovery plan for the years of 1994- 1997 presented to him by Israel Military Industries [IMI] management. He ordered that it be prepared anew. Rabin made the decision after it became apparent that the firm will require additional aid of $550 million over the coming years, and that the plan does not match the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear plan, as the government demanded in December 1992. Rabin criticized the situation at IMI at yesterday's cabinet session.

Last Sunday [7 August], Rabin discussed the IMI situation with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, senior Finance and Defense Ministry officials, and IMI management. It was revealed in the discussion that IMI is asking for an additional $200 million by the end of 1994, when it was supposed to balance its account by the end of this year through its operational recovery plan. It also became apparent that IMI will further require $350 million in aid in the coming years. The IMI officials maintained that the firm has met most of the goals set in the recovery plan. Nevertheless, their explanations regarding the additional aid they need failed to convince the other participants of the discussion.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

IMI management was asked to prepare an explanation for the deviations from the government resolutions, and a detailed set of alternatives for the operation of IMI by different methods, including what it would cost the government to close it.

In the cabinet session yesterday, Rabin stated that he would not hesitate to close down the company if he is convinced that its continued operation would not be profitable.

Air Force Delays Decision on Airport Shutdown

TA1108134894 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Text] The Israel Air Force is examining the possibility of moving the force's technical school from Haifa to the force's base in Nevatim in southern Israel. This was divulged by a senior Air Force source yesterday. According to the source, moving the technical school is one of the possibilities being examined in the force. The removal of the combat squadrons from the base is part of the force's reorganization.

The source added Air Force officers are aware of the fact that moving the technical school from the suburbs of Haifa to a faraway base like Nevatim could bring about a significant reduction in the number of youths interested in joining the school, which trains in boarding school conditions the main manpower for the Air Force's technical network.

Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said yesterday that the closure of the Nevatim base and the removal of battle squadrons is being planned in the Air Force regardless of the serious budgetary problems and the plan to reduce the IDF's budget next year. Senior Treasury officials noted that the chief of staff's attempt to threaten that the base will be closed down if the IDF's budget is reduced is a transparent stratagem which is not based on the facts.

The IDF spokesman said in reaction that he completely rejects the claim that the chief of staff misled the cabinet by the purported decision to close down the Nevatim airport. The chief of staff depicts to the cabinet the real situation, even when the truth is unpleasant and calls for tough decisions. As a matter of fact the defense minister and the chief of staff, who are those authorized to close down an air base, discussed the issue of the airport but have not received any decision yet; this will await the cabinet's decision whether to accept the Defense Ministry's request for a budget hike.

Retiring General: IDF 'Unprofessional' Army

TA1108134394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p A7

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is an unprofessional army which relies excessively on improvisation and intuition, Major General Yosi Ben-Hanan, commander of the National Defense College, stated yesterday. Gen. Ben-Hanan, who summoned a news conference with military correspondents on the occasion of his impending retirement, harshly criticized the professional level of IDF commanders.

"I am not pleased with the situation in the IDF today: about 50 percent of the colonels and 60 percent of the brigadier generals did not graduate from the Staff and Command College or the National Defense College due to various circumstances," Ben-Hanan said. He pointed out that this mainly applied to officers in field units.

It is inconceivable that a battalion commander bearing the rank of colonel should not be a college graduate, Ben-Hanan said. "I do not want to see an IDF battalion commander going out on critical missions only based on his natural talents and intuition. A Golani Brigade battalion commander decides the fate of more lives than a lawyer or a doctor who study for years. A doctor must study seven years in order to qualify to perform the simplest operation. Company and battalion commanders are responsible for the lives of many soldiers, and in many cases, they do not have the proper training."

According to him, the military profession should become a formal one and the IDF must raise its professionalism and rely less on improvisation. [passage omitted] Nevertheless, he noted that he notices an improvement in recent years.

Ben-Hanan also criticized the fact that the National Defense College is located in Tel Aviv rather than in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

'Arafat Invited to Amman To Discuss Jerusalem

JN1108113194 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 10-11 Aug 94 p 1

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AKHIR KHABAR has learned that Jordan has worked to ease tension with 'Arafat over the Jerusalem issue. Informed sources have said 'Arafat has been invited to visit Amman and discuss all outstanding issues in a spirit of fraternity in order to calm the situation and preserve the remnants of coordination. This invitation was handed to the Palestinian delegation that visited Amman recently and included Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Faysal al-Husayni.

Paper Urges Israel To Recognize Arab Rights

JN1208092094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The Change Required From the Other Side"]

[Text] During a unique meeting between his highness the crown prince and a delegation from the U.S.-based United Jewish Appeal, his highness called for, among other things, removing all inherited political barriers that make one people believe incorrect ideas about other peoples.

The fact is that this important and significant idea in His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's address brings us to an issue that is much talked about at this stage; that is, the issue of normalization.

Even if political developments impose a normalization at the diplomatic level, it is clear that normalization in other fields will be slow and governed by many factors. Among these factors, and perhaps the most important of which, is how the Israelis will teach their children political, historical, and social concepts? How will we teach ours? And how can we understand each other, as pointed out by his highness?

The significance of this is clear. At a time when there is a prevailing impression that the issue of normalization is being presented to us as an intellectual and ideological challenge and that there is no way but to respond to this challenge, the facts indicate that this issue is being simultaneously presented to the Israelis as well. It is not being presented to only one side; that is, us, as some claim.

It is well known that the Arabs, including the Jordanians, have reconsidered, at least during the past decade, many political and ideological dictums, such as the differentiation between Judaism and Zionism, actual recognition of the Israeli state, and distinguishing between the Israelis who are calling for dialogue and for the recognition of each other's rights and others who propagate their extremism, fanaticism, and isolation.

This reconsideration by Arab political intellectuals has met with a slower reconsideration on the part of the Israelis. Perhaps this is caused by the desire to resort to the old balance of power, which tips in the favor of their interests and not in the favor of the future's hopes and needs.

Now that the peace process has been launched and the Washington Declaration and the Oslo agreement have been signed, the Israeli side cannot avoid responding to the requirements of the peace stage. It is necessary to change concepts, whether about Jerusalem and the history of the Canaanites and the Jebusites in Jerusalem, as his highness said, or about issues related to culture and the nature of political, historical, and social concepts being taught to our children.

In light of what has been said, the Israeli side is urgently called on at this time to accept the culture of this region as well as the history and culture of the Arabs. The Israeli side is also called on to recognize the political, cultural, and religious rights of all Jordanians, Palestinians, and Arabs and to stop propagating anything akin to racism and to stop disseminating illusions of superiority and underestimation of others, whoever they may be, in our region. This should be accompanied by a withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

These are some of the issues that define the requirements of this stage, which cannot be avoided. Peace is not just a word or a slogan, it is a reality, which the peoples and generations should enjoy without exception, discrimination, or favoritism.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Fadlallah on Katyushas, Christopher's Syria Talks

MM1108160094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p2

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that "firing Katyushas is not part of the resistance's strategy but it is for the protection of the civilians in the south and in western al-Biqa'. If they hit our civilians, their civilians will be hit, and the matter stops there."

In reply to questions raised during the weekly Koranic interpretation class, he said that "the Jews wanted to show that the U.S. Secretary of State (Warren Christopher) managed to achieve something in his talks with the Syrian brothers, namely stopping the rockets and the Katyushas, but if we examine the U.S. Secretary of State's statement carefully, we will see that nothing happened because what he said was that we discussed that matter—that is, the issue of Hizballah and the resistance—and the view was that such matters can only be solved through a comprehensive solution. That means that the resistance will continue until a comprehensive solution is achieved, and it means that Syria did not respond to what the United States and Israel wanted in terms of Syria putting pressure on the resistance or disarming it."

On the background to the Israeli talk of an agreement to stop the resistance operations, he said that "a scrutiny of the statement of the enemy's foreign minister (Shim'on Peres) would show that he was talking about the firing of rockets at Zionist settlements in Palestine, saying that that has now ended. He was trying to reassure the Jews in Palestine. Naturally, he would say that to show that Christopher was able to do something."

Samahah Criticizes Jordanian-Israeli Initiative

JN1108182394 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 23

[Interview with Information Minister Michel Samahah by correspondent Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-'Ashri] How does Lebanon view reports that Jordan and Israel have almost reached a final agreement, and is Jordan's move considered a departure from Arab coordination?

[Samahah] Let me ask you if there is any Arab coordination to talk about. I do not want to go into details so as not to anger some people. It is enough to say that what Jordan has done lacks coordination and is not in harmony with the unified Arab position under which we went to Madrid in 1991. What took place recently is a unilateral Jordanian move, which is similar to the one made by the Palestinian side in Oslo, with the venue being the only difference. The Jordanian-Israeli solution came from Washington this time. King Husayn has chosen this way and he has to face the consequences. We reiterate that what Jordan has done is a unilateral move removed from solidarity and coordination. It is a copy of the Palestinian move. Jordan should have coordinated and consulted with other parties before taking such quick action. Such agreements are usually prepared quickly. However, we do not regret the positions of these sides. Lebanon will continue to call for coordination and solidarity. It is no secret that Lebanon has paid a high price for Arab solidarity. We, however, do not regret that, even through many countries benefit from certain situations apart from Lebanon. This is our fate, and we have to accept the consequences, although we may pay the same previous price.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that Lebanon may reach a peace accord with Israel before Syria, and what are Lebanon's conditions for such an accord?

[Samahah] Who said that? Lebanon will not make any unilateral moves, as some sides have done. We will not sign any peace accord with Israel before there is a solution on the Syrian track. Our fate is linked to that of Syria, and we will not accept anything less than a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution. Lebanon will not sign any agreement unless the Syrians sign it first. Lebanon will be the last to sign a peace accord. It will sign it only after the Arabs restore all their rights. We and Syria are one inseparable body.

Let everyone know that many solutions have been offered to us since the Madrid conference. All of them called for a unilateral solution, but we rejected them all and we did not do what our Arab brothers did when they left us in the middle of the road and ran away.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that the United States has prepared a comprehensive peace accord between Lebanon and Israel in cooperation with Israel, and have you been informed of that?

[Samahah] We know nothing about it, and we have not received any such notification so far. Everyday we hear about new draft agreements, but we do not believe them. We prefer to wait and see that agreement for ourselves and to study and assess it so as to be able to declare our position on it. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Comments on South, Peace Talks

JN1108180694 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Aug 94 p 12

["Text" of interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by unidentified AL-ITTIHAD correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [AL-ITTIHAD] One month ago, southern Lebanon was on the verge of explosion. However, a password calmed the situation there. What happened?

[Dallul] There was no password. We are used to Israeli threats and aggressions. Israel cannot embark on an invasion because Israel is aware that the price of such an invasion will be high and that its aggression will strengthen our solidarity. It must realize that the policy of aggression toward Lebanon will be futile. It might obstruct Lebanon's development efforts and cause more destruction, but in no way it can force us to make concessions.

[AL-ITTIHAD] It has been said that the Israeli aggression, which was imminent, had been postponed awaiting the results of Christopher's tour?

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[Dallul] This might have been the case. However, I believe that the mobilization carried out by Israel regarding Buenos Aires and London blasts could not hide the fact; namely, neither Lebanon nor any party in it had any connection with these blasts. This fact has been disclosed before the world public opinion, and Israel could not invest these blasts to launch an aggression against Lebanon.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Do you believe that Israel can carry out an aggression in the form of a large-scale invasion or military strikes, as happened in 'Ayn Kawkaba, under the existing negotiating circumstances?

[Dallul] Whenever Israel carries out an aggression we ask ourselves the following question: Why are the [Arab-Israeli peace] talks being held? What is their value? Where will they lead? I rule out any Israeli invasion, because the repercussions of the 1982 invasion still exist in Israel. Menachem Begin walked out of political life and society; and Israel's political and security impasse has been deepened. The results of any similar invasion now will be more costly on the Israeli level. I believe Israel cannot endure such a cost.

The paradox is that when the enemy becomes more brutal our solidarity increases. Our martyrs give us the motive to survive while those that are killed on their side cause their frustration; our martyrs turn into symbols that motivate us to make more sacrifices while their victims lead them to collapse and impasse. Furthermore, we have a cause: Our land is occupied and they are the occupiers. These matters are important in the political logic.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Is it correct that Syria has informed the involved parties that any aggression against Lebanon will make it review its stand vis-a-vis the [peace] talks?

[Dallul] On several occasions we asked the following question: Why are we holding talks while aggressions are being carried out? We informed the cosponsors of the peace conference of this, particularly in the wake of 'Ayn Kawkaba events and following every aggression. There is coordination between us and Syria regarding the extent to which it can go. However, our continuation with the talks will be a waste of time if Israel insists on not recognizing the just peace and on not withdrawing from our territory. This will turn into a process aimed at misleading public opinion, and we cannot be party to this. This situation will make us review the negotiations.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Can we consider what President Ilyas al-Hirawi said on Army Day—that the state pledges to control the situation in the south if Israel announces a timetable for withdrawal—as a new initiative?

[Dallul] Yes, it could be an initiative. This was said during the negotiations, but this is a new way of saying it. When Israel demanded that a joint military committee be formed with Lebanon, we said we are ready for this provided the task of the committee is to program Israel's withdrawal, and not discuss security. Israel wants to confine the activity of the committee to security, which means entrenching occupation and discussing the security of an occupier. No nation on earth accepts to turn into a policemen to protect those who occupy its territory.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Negotiators usually reveal some of their cards and keep others secret. Does Lebanon have pressure cards?

[Dallul] Certainly. We have many pressure cards. There is an important issue to consider here. More than one agreement were signed in the region, but has peace been achieved? We say that there can be no peace without Syria and Lebanon. I stress this. We will see that the agreements that were signed will not lead to peace. If Syria and Lebanon do not sign, then Israel can never dispense with its military machine, can never drop its high alert, and can never cut its war budget. This means Israel will continue to face a predicament if Syria and Lebanon do not sign.

Logically speaking, we can say that the cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestine question. It is said that this question has been resolved. Why does Israel then not withdraw from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and western al-Biqa'? Since the essence of the question has been resolved, then why should its consequences continue?

Not achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region in line with international resolutions and being satisfied with what was signed on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks will further escalate matters and lead to more extremism. Western and foreign interests will not be safe from threats, and the special and distinguished U.S. role in the region will be subject to collapse, just like what happened in Egypt when the United States stopped financing the High Dam and was replaced by the Soviet Union. It may be argued that we no longer have a Soviet Union. True. Logically speaking, however, another power is bound to emerge to face the United States. That power will capitalize on the loopholes caused by U.S. policy. Therefore, if a comprehensive peace is not achieved, including Syria and Lebanon in particular, the United States will never be able to maintain its status in the region.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Is there any understanding between the state and the resistance regarding the obligations of peace?

[Dallul] The Lebanese state values and appreciates the role undertaken by the resistance, because it is carrying out an important national duty. It is resisting the occupier. This is a duty by any people who find themselves facing an occupier that usurps their land. The state appreciates the resistance, and is fully aware that the role of the resistance will end once the occupation ends. Then, the resistance will embrace political action. The resistance has roots on this level from which it can go, and this matter is clear and well known.

Israel and the United States, as well as some forces, are trying to exploit the stand toward the resistance. We would like to know what happened when the German Army occupied Europe. Did the people not rise to fight occupation? They now celebrate annually the achievements of the popular resistance and hail its heroes. So why do they deny us the right to resist the occupiers of our land?

We are with the resistance, and it is impossible for us to clash with it. On the contrary, our relationship is based on harmony between the state and the resistance, and there could be more than harmony.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[AL-ITTIHAD] What is the story of the Syrian proposal that a Lebanese leads a joint delegation to the talks?

[Dallul] This has been extensively reported in the media, however, we have not been informed of it. Despite this, I do not see anything strange in this. In the past, we thought of forming a unified Arab delegation to the talks. It is not strange to see a joint Lebanese-Syrian delegation, neither is it strange to see two separate delegations. What is between us and the Syrians is more important than this. We have distinguished relations, a brotherhood and cooperation treaty, and determination to remain side by side in the talks.

[AL-ITTIHAD] There have been signals that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks are only inseparable in the signing. What does this mean?

[Dallul] The Lebanese and Syrian tracks are inseparable in everything; no track will advance more than the other. There is harmony and coordination between these two tracks. We are concerned to walk together since we entered the talks on definite bases. We are also committed to the Madrid formula and to the results of the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. We will not change our stand regarding these constant principles.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Lebanese parties have been accused of being involved in the blasts that took place in Buenos Aires and London. What is your response to these accusations?

[Dallul] These are false accusation against Lebanon—people and government. Nobody and no organization in Lebanon have any connections with these blasts. These accusations were premeditated and were immediately launched when the blasts took place even before ascertaining anything.

When the Argentine Government contacted us, it asked us to extradite the suspects without even giving their names. This behavior was very strange. When we denied that there is an organization in Lebanon called Ansarallah, they asked us again to carry out an investigation. The investigation should take place in Argentina. And this is what we told them. We also informed them whenever they find any facts noting Lebanon's connection with these blasts they should give us a file explaining this. This did not happen, and I believe they stopped making such accusations.

[AL-ITTIHAD] But these accusations were not ordinary, because they were made by Warren Christopher?

[Dallul) I said these were false accusations and a blatant encroachment. It became clear that they are also incorrect because they are based on fanaticism, rancor, and appeasement of Israel.

[AL-ITTIHAD] The U.S. secretary of state is touring the region, but he is not expected to visit Beirut. Why does the United States ignore Lebanon?

[Dallul] They want to pressure Lebanon by ignoring it. By this they are trying to say that we rejected their demand that we hold separate talks with Israel and join the multilateral talks. Therefore, they are putting pressure on us. However, we tell them that we will not change our position whatever the pressure. Our position is clear and frank and is based on the Madrid formula. We are surprised why the sponsor of the peace conference does not comply with that formula.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Syria was also asked to do the same but Christopher always visits Damascus. Do you believe that the United States deals with the Lebanese track as a secondary one?

[Dallul] No. They believe that if we accept their offer, it will be easy for them to weaken Syria and impose solutions on it.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Washington's mediations usually lead to compromises that satisfy one side and do not anger the other side. Do you believe there will be a compromise on the Lebanese track?

[Dallul] There will be no compromise. Our equation says that our territories are occupied and that we have Resolution 425 from the highest international authority calling for Israel's withdrawal. Any compromise should lead to Israel's withdrawal, and we will pledge to maintain security and prevent any operations. We are part of this region and the peace process.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Is it true that any solution on the Syrian track will lead to a solution on the Lebanese track?

[Dallul] Certainly.

[AL-ITTIHAD] With the approach of peace, the Army's capability to deploy in more areas is being questioned. Does the Army have such a capability?

[Dallul] When peace is achieved, the Army will be responsible for the situation in the south. Peace will come later, but as soon as Israel withdraws, the Army will assume the duty of maintaining security in the south, and there will be no operations against Israel any more from Lebanese territories.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Given the domestic financial constraints, and the continued dearth of foreign aid, how are you keeping the Army properly equipped?

[Dallul] We are demonstrating inventiveness in this regard. We have managed to make successes in this area. We try to obtain alternatives to the equipment we cannot acquire. In the past, we hired tank carriers from the local market. We also purchased some of the weapons and equipment left in Lebanon by other armies. We rehabilitated these weapons and equipment. Our procurements in the areas of supplies, electrical equipment, and clothes were conducted on the basis of invitations for tenders. At present, this is being done through invitation of offers, and amicable agreements. Thus, we have managed to save 8-11 billion pounds.

[AL-ITTIHAD] The detention of Samir Ja'ja' at the Ministry of Defense is still causing a lot of controversy. Why has he not been moved to the Madyan Prison? What do you have to say about this issue?

[Dallul] Ja'ja' is a prisoner, and not a detainee. Several arrest warrants have been issued against him. The government has the right to place him in any prison it deems fit. The choice of the prison where a prisoner is held is made on the basis of certain factors. We are responsible for Samir Ja'ja' and his security. We believe that it is in his best

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

security interests to hold him in the Qa'imah Prison at the Ministry of Defense. He is not coming under any pressures. He is living in comfortable circumstances. He is allowed to receive whomever he wants. Anywhere else, he would be among scores of other prisoners. Prison inmates would ridicule him. As far as we are concerned, Samir Ja'ja' is a defendant. For others, he might not be so. Nonetheless, the indictment sheet issued against him shows that he is a defendant.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Israel previously proposed incorporating the South Lebanese Army into the Lebanese Army. How do you view this proposal?

[Dallul] If Israelis collaborate with an Arab country, be it Egypt, Syria, or Lebanon, will Israel agree to rehabilitate them? The "South Lebanese Army" militia collaborated with the enemy, and committed crimes against our people. How then can we incorporate them into the regular army. After all, this is a Lebanese affair, and we will not accept dictates from anybody.

[AL-ITTIHAD] Do you think that Israel could once again raise the idea of a partial and conditional withdrawal from Jazzin?

[Dallul] If Israel chooses to withdraw, it is free to do so. We are not opposed to Israeli withdrawal anywhere. Nonetheless, there should be no price for such a withdrawal. All parts of our territory are equally dear and important to us. If the withdrawal from Jazzin were to be part of a complete withdrawal, we do not object, provided that there is an international undertaking to implement this scheduled withdrawal. Such steps have to be agreed in the negotiations.

Israeli Forces Use Missiles for 'First Time'

NC1208082294 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Israeli forces last night pounded saboteurs' targets in Jabal al-Rafi' and the al-Zighrin valley. An Israeli army rocket corps unit at 1930 fired four ground-to-ground [word indistinct] 500-type missiles at four positions manned by saboteurs in Jabal al- Rafi and the al-Zighrin valley. Our military correspondent who monitored the 15-minute operation said this is the first time the Israeli army has used ground-to-ground missiles in its war against saboteurs. The missile carries 500 kg of explosives and can cause extensive destruction to the target and damage within a 500-meter radius.

Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1208082994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Israeli bombardment of the south, notably Iqlim al-Tuffah, has intensified. One shell per minute has hit Iqlim al-Tuffah since dawn today. The Israeli occupation forces are also pounding Jabal al-Rafi' hills, Tallat Mlita, and 'Arab Salim. Nina Salih, 25, was slightly injured in the shelling. Two homes and a number of vehicles have been hit.

Despite the siege of Yuhmur, the Israeli forces pounded the outskirts of that town at dawn today and snipers fired at the new crossing point between Yuhmur and Arnun and the Israelis set up a mobile checkpoint on the Yuhmur-Arnun highway.

'War' Scenarios Against Iran, Hizballah Noted

NC1108123294 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Aug 94 pp 21-25

[Article by Zayn Hammud]

[Excerpts] It did not cross the mind of 'Imad Mughaniyah, who is very famous nowadays, that, with a magic wand, he could overnight become a man wanted by every international quarter. The Western media, especially media close to international intelligence services, have turned him into an evil "star," similar to the murderous and criminal stars who appear in the U.S. "western" or "cowboy" movies, by making up stories about his responsibility for the explosion at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires and two other explosions targeting the Israeli Embassy and an Israeli center in London. All that Mughanniyah needs is for a reward to be put on his head inviting bounty hunters to capture him dead or alive.

According to Mughaniyah's friends and acquaintances, he was planning to return to his country to take up permanent residence. He confided this to people who saw him during his recent visit to Lebanon following Israel's raid against the Hizballah camp in 'Ayn Kawkab in al-Biqa'. He was determined to return to Lebanon permanently, confident that he would not be pursued or harmed, in line with an old agreement written up several years ago with U.S. representatives. The agreement closed the file on the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon with the delivery of the bodies of two hostages killed in captivity. Mughaniyah believed it was time to leave his hideout and return to normal life but all this collapsed suddenly. The source of the leaks was the British then the American media. Soon afterward the whole world's media picked up the British press scenarios that made Mughaniyah and his role instrumental in the bombings carried out by "Islamic terrorism," as the campaign termed it.

Just as these leaks changed Mughaniyah's life they had the same effect on the life of former Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, wanted by the Argentine foreign minister for interrogation! The same thing applies to all those on the list of names kept by America on people it accuses of carrying out operations against them. The Americans promised to turn a blind eye to them when the foreign hostages were released. This atmosphere of threats and warnings, which rest not on any tangible or incriminating evidence, but on assumptions and speculation, has infuriated the circles of those concerned or targeted by the accusations. This perhaps has led the United States to try to take the initiative again, as demonstrated by the clarifications that U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Hambley has hastened to advance to Lebanese officials—that the Hizballah U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called for defeating is not Lebanon's Hizballah. It seems that this was intended not

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

to let things get out of hand or lead to an escalation that Washington does not want to see at a time when Christopher is starting a new Middle East tour to complete what he started on his previous round in search of a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track and, consequently, on the Lebanese-Israeli track. But the U.S. clarifications on Christopher's "war" remarks against Hizballah and Iran have failed to remove the uncertainty, fear, and anxiety gripping those directly concerned with the threats and Lebanese living along the contact lines with the Israeli enemy in the south, al-Biqa', and as far as Beirut's Southern Suburb.

Many interesting scenarios are surfacing on Israel's potential operations to assassinate or kidnap this or that Hizballah official or carry out commando-type operations that could deal a devastating blow to Hizballah's infrastructure. The U.S. clarifications, connected with Christopher's Middle East diplomatic efforts this week, which sought to alleviate the tension, failed to eliminate the impression that something is about to happen. According to several "security readings," a state of relaxation could have been intended by these clarifications to make it possible to hunt down whoever is wanted in the security war declared openly by Christopher's remarks and [Israeli official] Uri Lubrani's threats of a "painful and hurtful" reply.

The "security readings" have closely followed the international stances on the bombings from Argentina to the United States and from West Europe to Israel and arrive at the conclusion that an Israeli security war against Hizballah, with a U.S. and international green light, is inevitable. This is the favorite approach of Israel's security and military policies, which are not normally implemented unless preparations have been made for the appropriate international cover. [passage omitted]

Information available through diplomatic channels indicates that the coordinated campaign through Washington, Tel Aviv, London, Buenos Aires, and other capitals focuses on one goal involving two parts: First, launching large-scale security warfare against Hizballah through a series of successive strikes against its leaders and basic organizational structures, especially those with an Arab and Islamic extension. In sum, they aim to strike at Hizballah's backbone. Israel will undertake this task. Israel proposed to decision-making capitals the formation of a rapid multinational intervention force against terrorism in general and "Islamic terrorism" in particular, a force capable of swift intervention anywhere. Discussions are currently under way at the UN Security Council to legalize this force and give it a lawful international status so that its intervention will not be considered an act of piracy or the like.

There are numerous assumptions about the form of Israeli operations, especially as Israel provided examples of what it can do, beginning with the Verdun operation in Beirut against three Palestinian leaders in the early 1970's, through numerous assassinations, including the assassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis and of Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al- Musawi, to the raid on 'Ayn Kawkab in Ba'labakk and the kidnapping of Faithful Resistance official Mustafa al-Dirani. Yitzhaq Rabin has said that al-Dirani provided Israel with important information, including revealing the party to which Israeli pilot Ron Arad was handed in 1988.

The second part of the international campaign is aimed at forming an international alliance the nucleus of which has begun to appear in the United States, Britain, and France against Iran. According to the same information, an international alliance will emerge in the next three or four months, an alliance similar to the international alliance that waged the Gulf War against Iraq. This does not mean that a "Desert Storm" war will be launched against Iran, because there are other "painful" options like the siege imposed on Libya as a result of the Lockerbie incident, which the West and the Security Council accuse Libya of carrying out.

The United States views Iran as a new Moscow, which plays roles that are at odds with those of the United States and its allies. Examples a[illegible]the events in the Central Asian republics and the support Iran gives to the fundamentalist movements in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, and Sudan, up to other countries in the Maghreb and Africa. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Returns From Egypt

NC1108134694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and his accompanying delegation returned to Beirut from Cairo at 1530 today following an official four-day visit during which he met Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials. [passage omitted]

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Ambassador to Cairo on Prospects for Peace

NC1108183494 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish by AL-'ARABI's Arab Affairs editors at the paper's Cairo offices; date not given]

[Text] [AL-'ARABI] How did these years pass [since the 1974 Geneva talks] without real negotiations?

[Darwish] In the talks that followed the 1967 war, Syria realized that the Arab and international conditions were not propitious and that it was impossible for Syria and Egypt to opt for a solution because the Palestinians had not then agreed on what they wanted from the settlement. When the disengagement talks began, Syria felt that there was a U.S. desire to deal with each Arab country separately. Syria therefore refused to go to Geneva because it realized that the issue was an Arab one and not a dispute over an occupied territory. Syria was only offered a promise from the United States and Russia that the Geneva conference was no more than a meeting between the parties to the conflict that could lead to something. We refused to go because there was no "agenda" that ensured withdrawal from the occupied territories and retrieval of the Palestinian people's rights. It was a mere promise. The Gulf war then came, which was followed by the Bush initiative in 1991 that advocated the principle of land in return for peace. That was the first definite offer. There was nothing between 1967 and 1991. During Secretary of State James Baker's nine visits to Syria, we said: Syria's concept of peace means Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. We asked for a U.S. promise on this and the reply was: If we give a promise, then there is no need for negotiations. We hear at different times that Israel will withdraw from the Golan, that it will withdraw from some of the Golan, and that it will lease some of the Golan settlements. We have not replied to any of these.

[AL-'ARABI] Is what is being offered to Syria mere ideas or complete programs?

[Darwish] Mere ideas that have no real substance. They think that our ideas are still too remote from theirs. All the Israeli ideas revolve around a timetable for the withdrawal from the Golan. But how could we agree to a partial withdrawal necessary under a timetable? This principle has been rejected. Christopher is still in the stage of exploring and Peres' statements about Syria's sovereignty over the Golan are nothing new because there is an international resolution on that.

[AL-'ARABI] Some Arabs have asked us to hold secret talks. [sentence as published]. How many offers has Syria received so far?

[Darwish] There is an offer with every Christopher visit. But Israel does not offer any guarantee or pledge to withdraw from all the occupied Syrian territories. All the withdrawal offers are not worth the price they are asking Syria to pay. We are saying: How could they occupy the Golan in two days and could only withdraw from it over years? Quite simply, the Golan cannot be compared to Sinai because the latter's size is 61,000 square kilometers, that is 61 times the size of the Golan. How could the Syrian people agree to retrieve the Golan at the rate of three kilometers a year as Israel wants?

[AL-'ARABI] What are the arrangements being proposed in return for this partial withdrawal?

[Darwish] There are security arrangements for every partial withdrawal. There is a demand for every withdrawal, but it is not clear when they will stop making demands in the future. The general framework of these demands is vague. They are discussing several issues, such as terrorism, human rights, Hizballah, the detainees, the missing persons, Syrian Jews, the 1967 pamphlets they found with the soldiers in the tanks during the war, the Syrian radio broadcasts, and Syrian policy. All these issues have nothing to do with withdrawal and Syria replies that it does not agree to less than complete withdrawal.

[AL-'ARABI] Have you received offers to hold secret talks with Israel similar to the Oslo ones?

[Darwish] We have received offers and advice from the Americans and some Arabs in all the stages of negotiations, especially when we stopped the talks after the ninth and 11th rounds. We were inundated by advice after the Palestinians went to Oslo, but we have rejected all the offers and advice.

[AL-'ARABI] Why?

[Darwish] Because the Syrian demand has always been an international peace conference attended by the Security Council, the European Union, and the Security Council's permanent five members. In the Madrid conference, we relied on the terms of reference stemming from the UN resolutions. The Oslo negotiations had no international terms of reference. Therefore, when 'Arafat sought the help of the Americans after the secret negotiations, they told him: You have to negotiate with the Israelis. A long series of negotiations then followed under Egyptian sponsorship and with U.S. intervention. Could Syria, a pivotal country whose territories are occupied, accept this?

[AL-'ARABI] What is Christopher, now in Syria, bringing?

[Darwish] In my view, Christopher's proposals were conveyed before his arrival. He will try to bring closer the views that are still wide apart. We do not know beforehand how far this closeness will go.

[AL-'ARABI] What can Syria give?

[Darwish] What can we give after having sided with the United States against an Arab country that committed aggression against another country and participated with the international legitimacy forces? To avoid being accused of siding with international legitimacy in one case and of not siding with it in another, not a single Arab country has dared to break the sanctions imposed on Libya. How can the Arabs be asked to be against themselves while others are not asked to make a move toward the Arabs? We have to think of ourselves.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

[AL-'ARABI] Have you received an offer to hold direct talks in Cairo?

[Darwish] Israel is constantly making offers. Even Rabin said in Taba: I do not negotiate with journalists.

[AL-'ARABI] Is not Israel's separate agreements with each party a sort of pressure on Syria?

[Darwish] If the pressure is in the sense that Syria has to make concessions, then I very frankly say that what has been done will not influence us and that there will be no complete and comprehensive peace without peace with Syria. Such a peace will be liable to be undermined not by its signatories but by the peoples who realize that their interests are linked. Who, for example, can accept three million Palestinian refugees if the agreements ignore their status? Who can convince any Arab or Muslim to let Jerusalem go to Israel and have 150,000 of its inhabitants affiliated with Israel? Who will agree to let part of the West Bank go to Israel and for Palestine to be confined to Gaza and Jericho? How can the Arab countries open their markets to Israel's products and crossing points while they live in an economic situation that is threatened, penetrated, and suffocating while there is no peace with Syria? Through peace and technology, Israel will impose a levy on Arab oil, economies, and markets. This means that there will be no peace, as evidenced by the fact that a single loophole in the agreement with Jordan has created a Jordanian-Palestinian tremor that continues to reverberate daily.

If the pressure refers to the countries that have concluded agreements with Israel, then these countries have damaged themselves and the Arab nation will have to bear the consequences of this action, and Syria is part of the Arab whole.

[AL-'ARABI] In the current Arab and international climate, what is Syria's strategy for peace?

[Darwish] Any strategy has to take into account the adversary's strategy. It is a fact that strategies, regarding peace or any other matter, change. The Soviet Union, a strategic asset on which the Arabs and the Third World relied, has collapsed. This affected us, but this is a temporary factor. Following every major change in the world, a shift of power occurs and a new balance is established.

Another strategic asset was Iraq. Despite our differences with the Iraqi leadership, that country is a strategic depository for Syria. The actions of Iraqi leaders undermined Syria and the Arabs.

With the former strategic balance upset, the situation shifted. The United States rose as the lone superpower advocating international legitimacy. Seeing that the world is moving toward the application of international law, we opted for a strategy of peace to benefit from this factor.

Our perception of peace is strategic and not tactical. This strategy calls for a new Arab order to arise, one that substitutes ideology with interests and embraces economic and technological progress as a means of achieving justice and democracy in the region.

Unless this strategy works, the future will be one of Israeli hegemony. Israel's ambitions will grow. It will seek control of the area extending from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean, not only the area from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Isolationists must understand that their ideas are deadly. No sooner did we discard as empty rhetoric the slogans of unity and pan-Arabism than the enemy moved into our midst and tore up our societies. Iraq, Sudan, Algeria, and the minorities issues raised in Egypt and Lebanon are obvious examples.

[AL-'ARABI] Let us move on to Lebanon. Has the United States told Syria that if it allows Lebanon to negotiate separately—and then wait to sign a peace settlement jointly with Syria—it would intervene to block the agreement between Jordan and Israel?

[Darwish] I assure you that this is not true. Lebanon's case is clear. It has to do with UN Security Council Resolution 425 and not with the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Lebanese president, an Arab Maronite Christian, said that he is ready to send 25,000 soldiers to the south to ensure that not one bullet is fired once Israel withdraws.

What they call terror is national resistance to Israeli occupation. However, Israel links Resolution 425 to the Middle East conflict. This is very dangerous. What Israel is trying to do is neutralize Lebanon and establish a full normalization on Syria's flank, a development that could affect the solid relations between Syria and Lebanon.

What is happening is an attempt to undercut the Syrian negotiating position. Israel is trying to take on the Arabs one by one. The Arabs have been naive enough to fall for this trick. Israel is dealing out piecemeal peace as part of a U.S. scheme. Yasir 'Arafat got in trouble because of that scheme. 'Arafat claimed that Syria fell for U.S. schemes, but it was he who did.

[AL-'ARABI] The Syrian Army is one of your country's strategic assets. How will it be rebuilt after the collapse of the Soviet Union?

[Darwish] The United States, Russia, and Western countries are all just merchants. The sagas of Iraq and Iran illustrate how open the market is. The Russians sell to the highest bidder. China and Korea do the same.

[AL-'ARABI] When [Former U.S. Secretary of State] James Baker visited Damascus following the Gulf War he spoke about the Syrian missiles issue. What exactly did he demand?

[Darwish] Let us consider the case of Libya, just to illustrate the situation. I have learned from reliable sources that he [not further specified] asked al-Qadhdhafi to destroy Libyan missiles, tanks, and planes in return for them to forget about the Lockerbie crisis. They [not further specified] want Syria and other Arab countries disarmed. Syria and Egypt countered by calling for the removal of mass destruction weapons from the region, including from Israel. We are dealing here with matters of sovereignty. We cannot disarm when our land is occupied and peace is a remote prospect.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

For example, Israel steals water from the Jordan River. Asked if they were going to negotiate about returning the water of the Jordan River, the Israelis said: We (Israel) and Jordan should look for new water resources because what we have now is insufficient. We are a victim of blackmail.

[AL-'ARABI] To go back to what you just said about Libya, has Syria been presented with any specific demands concerning the Syrian Army?

[Darwish] We have not received any requests. We listened to certain remarks and our response was that reductions should be made on both sides.

[AL-'ARABI] Israel threatens occasionally that if Syria wants the entire Golan it will have to fight for it.

[Darwish] No occupation lasts forever. We will not keep looking the other way. The losses will be high even for Israel. What Israel is saying is just blackmail.

[AL-'ARABI] Will the Syrian economy stay on course with all the efforts made to equip the Syrian Army?

[Darwish] There has been no change, over the past few years, in the level of our interest in the army. Maintaining the level of armaments will have its effects, of course. But Syria, you should remember, exports not imports wheat. Our oil production ranges between 500 and 600 barrels per year. We are a major wheat producer in the world. We have no debts worth mentioning. Accordingly, our resolve cannot be mortgaged by anyone. Our growth rate is about 8 percent and we are trying to increase it through enhanced productivity and the creation of profit-making projects. Decree No. 10 was issued toorganize certain sectors. About one third of a billion [currency not specified] was invested in the private sector in the past few years. Tourism is a promising sector with an income of about $700 million a year.

[AL-'ARABI] How much are Syria's debts?

[Darwish] Not more than 6 billion [currency not specified], as far as I know. Our debts to Russia, mostly accumulated through arms deals, are being taken care of through barter. Russia has expressed a willingness to cancel some of these debts and schedule the rest.

[AL-'ARABI] What part is Syria playing in Arab reconciliation?

[Darwish] We mediate among Arab countries, between Arab countries and non-Arab neighbors, between Egypt and Sudan, and between Egypt and Iran. We also made efforts to ensure that the Yemeni war would not change the status quo. We are not qualified to mediate about Iraq. However, we held a conference with Turkey and Iran and both countries agreed that the territorial integrity of Iraq should not be affected. In other words, the situation in north and south Iraq will not imperil its future territorial integrity. This was a remarkable commitment.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Afghanistan

Militia Positions Said Seized; 17 Killed

LD1108175194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Four strong positions of the Dostam-Golboddin militias in Bagrami district, Kabul Province, were seized this morning by the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army.

A source of the country's armed forces reported to the military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] that the defamed Dostam-Golboddin militias embarked this morning on an unsuccessful attack on the positions of the Islamic army from the [word indistinct] and Qala-e Hazar Khan directions. This attack was confronted with a strong counterattack by the forces of the Islamic army. As a result of this counterattack, 17 militiamen were killed and the rest forced to flee from their previous positions.

As a result of the heavy weapon and artillery fire by the Islamic army, three enemy's tanks were also set on fire and one 82 mm artillery was destroyed.

The country's air force also attacked the militias' positions and fortifications in Charasiab and Bagrami, inflicting heavy loss of life and material upon them.

The security sources reported to the BIA that the militias, after their shameful defeat, attacked the residential areas of the city by rockets and mortar shells. As a result, one Kabul citizen was martyred and another (?18) were injured.

Bangladesh

Rejection of Indian Transit Facility Welcomed

BK1208103094 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 8 Aug 94 p 5

[Editorial: "Transit Facility Cannot Be Given"]

[Text] Bangladesh has rejected the Indian proposal seeking a transit facility through the northern region of the country with a view to establish links between West Bengal and the seven northeastern states of India. An interministerial meeting held recently decided if this facility is granted to India then it will pose a threat to the independence and sovereignty of the country. The meeting also gave its view that another Indian proposal seeking to use Chittagong Port for the purpose of trade and commerce can be considered only after evaluating whether it will be economically profitable for Bangladesh or not. It may be recalled that India has been trying for a long time to make Bangladesh agree to its proposal seeking a transit facility to establish direct links between West Bengal and the northeastern states of that country. Bangladesh has always shown a negative attitude towards this proposal. The final expression of this attitude was reflected in the outright rejection of the proposal. The above argument for rejecting this proposal is the main cause. Bangladesh or any other sovereign state cannot accept any proposal which may pose a threat to its independence and sovereignty. Hence, the rejection of this proposal is a correct and proper decision. Since the very beginning we have been requesting the government not to grant this type of transit facility to India. The people of this country do not want their interests or the independence and the sovereignty of the country put at stake by permitting this transit facility to India. The opinion which we gave earlier in this regard was based on the wishes, sentiments, and feelings of the people. We have said repeatedly that the transit facility cannot be granted to India since it may be suicidal. Whatever may be the case, at last the government has taken into consideration and has given due importance to the wishes and opinion of the people. We believe that any patriotic and nationalist government cannot do anything which may cause the slightest harm to national interest. We expect that, henceforth, no time will be spent on discussions of the Indian proposal that may harm our national interest. Regarding the Indian proposal on the use of Chittagong Port, we earlier stated that this proposal is not acceptable. The Indian proposal to permit them to use Chittagong Port should be rejected on the same grounds under which they have been refused a transit facility. We don't feel that there is any need to take into consideration the economic benefits that could be earned by allowing India to use Chittagong Port. We hope that India's proposal to use Chittagong Port will be rejected immediately. It is known to all that India's attitude and activities on the issue of giving Bangladesh its due share of the Ganges River water clearly indicates that it is not going to give the water to Bangladesh easily and under normal circumstances. We have learned that on the issue of giving Bangladesh its due share of the Ganges River water, India is trying to impose on Bangladesh two preconditions which include the digging of a link canal between the Ganges and the Brahmaputra Rivers and granting it transit facility. The attitude of India shows that it is willing to consider the issue of giving the Ganges River water if Bangladesh accepts its two preconditions. It goes without saying that there is no logical ground behind linking the Ganges water issue with these two proposals. Moreover, both these proposals are against the interests of Bangladesh. Hence, the question of accepting these proposals does not arise. We know that India will continue to exert pressure in different sectors with a view to achieve its objectives. It also is doing so at present. The highest government authorities of the country should remain alert and cautious about it. The people also should remain alert and cautious.

India

Satellite Television Service Available

BK1208062194 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singhdeo, today informed the Lok Sabha that the satellite service of Doordarshan is now available throughout the country. He said terrestrial coverage is being increased so that there will be no need to install dish antenna to get the national program. The information and broadcasting minister said nine high-power transmitters, including two

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

interim setups, are likely to be installed this year. Mr. K.P. Singhdeo also ruled out allowing the state governments to run their own broadcasting networks, saying broadcasting is a central subject.

Iran

Further on Charges Made in Argentine Bombing

Three More Diplomats Suspected

PY1108143094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1322 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Aug (NA)—Very reliable sources in Tehran have reported that the four Iranians that have been accused in the Buenos Aires attack case are going to bring suit against the Argentine judicial branch.

The sources indicated that the four persons have asked the Iranian foreign minister to "help them with the procedures."

According to the sources Martin Rivolta, Argentine charge d'affaires in Tehran, was called to the Foreign Ministry during the early hours of 10 and 11 August and "warned of the intention of these four Iranian citizens."

They added that "the Iranians believe they have been harmed by the slander of the Argentine judicial branch, which has accused them without having any evidence."

The Argentine court system has issued international requests for the arrest of those four men, three former diplomats and a deputy who visited Argentina in December 1993, on the basis of their possible involvement in the attack against the offices of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, which caused close to 100 deaths in July.

Suspicion has also fallen on another three Iranian diplomats who are currently holding posts in Buenos Aires.

On 11 August Iran termed it "a U.S., British, and Israeli plot" after Argentina made known the accusations against its diplomats. The Iranian representative to the United Nations condemned Argentina's "allegations" and requested that it "present documentation and evidence of its accusations against Iranian citizens."

The radical Iranian media on 11 August demanded the breaking of diplomatic relations with Argentina and Great Britain.

Resistance of 'Pressure' Urged

LD1108150294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday summoned the Argentine charge d'affaires to Tehran and delivered Iran's protest note to him over baseless accusations against four Iranian nationals. While formally rejecting the unfounded and insulting accusations against four Iranian nationals, the protest note has called the attention of the Argentine Government to the date of exit from Buenos Aires of the said Iranian nationals, that is nine months back to six years ago.

According to political analysts the contradictory comments of the Argentine judge investigating the Buenos Aires bombing show that the scenario of the Zionist regime and the United States for accusing Iran of terrorist acts has not been prepared so accurately. And it is because of this that the said judge and other Argentine officials have been making contradictory comments.

The matter of the fact is that since the United States and the Zionist regime witness today that as a universal ideology Islam is responding to the spiritual needs of the people in most parts of the world and more and more people are being attracted toward Islam all over, they have embarked upon efforts through their media and press to accuse Islam and Muslims, by all means, of terrorist acts, violation of the basic rights, war mongering, and tens of other accusations.

About the Buenos Aires Jewish center bombing, first they accused the Lebanese Hizballah, and later, when they failed to produce any evidence, the bombing was attributed to the Islamic Republic of Iran. A few days later the Argentine officials withdrew their claims, but now, on the basis of the unfounded comments made by a fugitive Iranian living in Venezuela who sometime ago claimed that Iran wanted to kidnap him, four other Iranian nationals are being accused of being involved in the Buenos Aires bombing. But since liars have a short memory, they forgot that in the new scenario they should at least accuse those who are present in Argentina. But the Zionist regime and the United States officials were in such a great haste for accusing Iran of terrorist acts that they have accused the four Iranians who had travelled to Argentina a long time ago.

Now the question is posed as to how it is possible that a person who was in Argentina six years ago can plan a terrorist act in that country which took place a month ago?

It must be said that the Argentine Government, under the pressure of the Zionist regime—especially that of the United States—has entered a trend that will definitely discredit the said government in the eyes of the world public opinion. It seems it would be better for the Argentine Government not to submit to foreign pressure. The Argentine Government should identify the real elements behind the bombing and thus save itself from further political discrediting.

Threat of 'Intervention' Seen

LD1108184794 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Vienna, Aug 11, IRNA—It is amazing how the Zionist oriented media once more fails to mention that the four Iranian diplomats, alleged to have been involved in the bombing, were last in Argentina long before the bombing of the Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires.

The Argentine judge, who bases his allegations on claims made by an opportunist individual with criminal background, should also not escape criticism.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

So far, those accusing Iran with the Buenos Aires bombing, have come up with nothing but allegations, and this is apparently enough for the Western media in their attempts for poisoning the public opinion against Iran.

It should not be expected otherwise from the Argentine Government to undertake thorough investigations before leveling allegations, since it too, like several Latin American governments, would not have come to power without the United States' covert or overt support.

The U.S. and the Zionist elements with their false accusations against Iran, aim to prepare the world opinion and the UN Security Council for a possible military intervention in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and thus putting an end to the only opposing force to be reckoned with which calls for a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Christopher Visit Linked to Bombing Accusations

LD1108192694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1652 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] With the failure of the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East aimed at compromise deals between the Zionist regime and Syria and Lebanon, once again Washington and Tel Aviv's secret diplomacy instruments have become active waging a fresh round of diplomatic and psychological war against the Islamic Iran through the propaganda horns under their control. Within the past week, Argentinine authorities formally withdrew their previous comments, rejected Iran's involvement in the bombing of a large Jewish center in Argentina, and announced that there is no evidence linking the Islamic Republic to the explosion. Despite this fact and following the unsuccessful visit of the U.S. Secretary of State to the Middle East and the wrath of Tel Aviv at the nonsurrender of Syria and Lebanon to the will of the Zionist regime, efforts were made that trapped Argentinian authorities, knowingly or unknowingly, in Washington's and Tel Aviv's circle of diplomatic hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This made them make new statements and unfriendly comments that are against diplomatic norms. [passage omitted]

Islamic Iran understands the position of the Argentine Government very well and knows that Buenos Aires is under direct and indirect pressure by America and the Zionist fronts inside and outside the country. That is why it has made conflicting and contradictory remarks.

It is obvious that the continuation of mutual ties are possible through adherence to diplomatic norms. That is why the Islamic Republic does not expect the Argentine leaders and its diplomatic and media instruments to be influenced by the propaganda lies of America and Israel or to act under their overt and covert pressures. The Argentine Government should not adopt unfriendly stances and actions that contradict diplomatic norms under such pressures. The Islamic Republic, while expressing regret at the carelessness of the Argentine judicial authorities vis-a-vis this issue, clearly and explicitly requests clear evidence that may prove any kind of accusations made. Otherwise, no doubt, until evidence proving anyone's involvement in any incident has been found, the accusation itself will be regarded as an offense.

'Incapable' Christopher Said Suffering 'Perplexity'

NC1108190294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Aug 94 p 14

[Editorial: "Christopher—The Shameless Broker"]

[Text] Warren Christopher, the malevolent U.S. Secretary of State, has been assigned to visit the region so that he can extricate the becalmed vessel of U.S. Middle East policy, and think of ways and means for continuing the trend of the compromising Arab-Israeli talks.

In the initial stage of his Middle East visit, Christopher arrived in Egypt and then prepared for a visit to occupied Palestine. Today he is scheduled to participate in the inauguration ceremonies of the border route between Jordan and occupied Palestine at al-'Aqabah port. He will then visit occupied Palestine again and present a wrap-up of his intensive visit to the Zionist regime's officials.

Even though U.S. diplomacy has constantly been based on support for the Zionist regime, all the existing facts and figures indicate that Warren Christopher is far more solicitous for Israel than all the other U.S. secretaries of state and his efforts to serve Israel have reached the level of groveling and behaving in a contemptible manner. Thus, in this assignment it is not very clear what Christopher will give topmost priority to, who is at the top of his agenda as far as service is concerned, and what is the main objective centered on.

Those who are closely acquainted with the Christopher's morale and performance will be better able to confirm that he does not have the necessary psychological balance. In recent months, he has been afflicted by a "personality crisis" and has constantly been assailed by perplexity and tormenting ambivalence in the various stages of formulating and implementing Washington's policies. Very recently, he has been complaining to his closest friends of the imbalance in his personality and has sought their help.

Perhaps the Zionists are capitalizing on these weak points in Christopher's personality for furthering their objectives to the maximum. Naturally, it seems too farfetched that we should be aware of these weaknesses in Christopher. However, it is highly unlikely that the Zionists, who have penetrated deep into the warp and weft of the U.S. domineering system, could be ignorant of this fact.

Of course, in order to cover up the shortcomings, failures, and ineptitude in U.S. foreign policy, Christopher has also used all possible means. All facts and figures indicate that he is more incapable than ever in the arena of action and cannot pursue his objectives correctly. Nowadays, Christopher is behaving in a manner far more "Zionist than the Zionists" but the more he does, the more demanding the Zionists become and they expect more and more service from this malicious element.

It is precisely for this reason that the U.S. secretary of state displayed more audacity than Israel in the recent incidents

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

of the explosion at the Zionist centers in Buenos Aires and London and labeled the Iranian nation an outlaw. However, this spiteful approach cannot be considered to be of any assistance to the U.S. diplomacy, which is boxed in a cul-de-sac.

Today, Christopher's situation and position has degenerated into that of a mindless instrument for the Zionist policies in the region. He makes frequent futile visits to the region in order to achieve a breakthrough in the compromising talks so that he can enter it in the ledger of his expertise. The demanding Zionists, however, are trying to exert even greater pressure on Christopher so that he stoops to more groveling and efforts.

In such circumstances, it does not seem very likely that the recent visit by the U.S. secretary of state will be able to unravel the knots of the problems of the unsuccessful diplomacy of Washington. For this purpose, he will probably make an effort to compensate for his latest defeats and failures and to cover them up by continuing his vindictiveness toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic movements in the region. Even such attacks cannot bear any fruit for this shameless broker.

Christopher's Talks on Islamic Resistance Viewed

NC1108204394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Aug 94 p 14

[Editorial: "The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon Is Not Negotiable"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

During the course of his visit to Damascus, Warren Christopher had a five-hour session of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. At its conclusion, he announced that the talks with the leaders in Damascus had been serious and that the issue of the Lebanese Hizballah was the main subject of the talks.

The question is: Why does Washington have this sensitivity to the activities of the Lebanese Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance in the south? What have the combatants in the south done that have aroused Washington's ire and concern to this extent? In addition, despite the thousands of kilometers of distance between the United States and this region, why is the United States perturbed to such an extent about Lebanon's internal affairs and why is it interfering in the internal affairs of an Islamic country, the southern areas of which have been occupied by the Zionist forces?

This request by Christopher coincided with the unleashing of the latest round of Zionist atrocities against Lebanon. Naturally, Washington as the true supporter of Israel strove to pave the way for even greater crimes by the Zionists in all possible ways. On principle, Christopher hopes that there should be no obstacle to Israel's aggression and that all atrocities of the Zionist forces in southern Lebanon should go unanswered.

Lest we forget, Lebanon is the sole Arab country in the region that has been able to rub Israel's nose in the dust all by itself. Except for Syria, none of the Arab countries have displayed any reaction worth mentioning with regard to Israel's aggression and the Zionists' crimes in Lebanon. Even the Arab League is indifferent toward the daily events in Lebanon and the proliferating wave of aggression by the Zionist Armed Forces in southern Lebanon and does not register any protest or opposition against this aggression.

We should not forget that even in Lebanon the Armed Forces and the Lebanese president had acted in collusion with the Zionists for more than a decade. No one has forgotten those episodes of the Phalangists' collaboration with Israel; Bashir Jumayyil, Amin Jumayyil, and Michel 'Awn's collusion with Israel; and the indifference of the Lebanese Armed Forces toward Israeli crimes. Despite the usurpation of three-fourths of Lebanon's territory and the siege of Beirut, the Lebanese Army was not ready to enter the fray. This is because it was in favor of Israel's objectives and even wanted the Zionists to be successful in achieving their goals.

Let us also not forget that the multinational NATO forces entered Lebanon to complete the attainment of Israel's aggressive objectives and entered the battle to consolidate the shaky base of the criminal Phalangists but did not succeed in practice.

In such circumstances, the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon took over the struggle against the Zionist usurpers single-handedly, but the determination for the defense of an Islamic homeland was in itself the main asset that enabled it to rub the nose of the interventionist NATO forces in the dust with its valor, selflessness, and courageous resistance. It was for this reason that the generals of the NATO forces raced even their own forces in fleeing from Lebanon and left the country much earlier than expected.

When Israel perceived the upsurge of the belligerent Islamic Resistance in Lebanon, it retreated to the south, but by mustering a mercenary army it sought to create an interim zone. Today, even the mercenary force cannot guarantee the security of the Zionist usurpers. The Islamic resistance forces continue their legitimate struggle to liberate their occupied homeland and to purge the Islamic territory of Lebanon from the filth of the Zionist occupiers.

The rumination of these reminiscences at least enables us to comprehend better the roots of the fury and malice of the United States and Israel today and the reason for this paranoid vindictiveness on the part of Christopher becomes clearer.

In Damascus, Christopher openly strove to motivate Hafiz al-Asad to make a deal with regard to the Hizballah. During the course of his talks, be imagined that he would be able to "haggle" on the issue. The crux of the matter is that the Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon are not negotiable. The Syrian echelons are also well aware of this fact that the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon is in fact considered the honor and prestige of the Lebanese nation. It is therefore natural that the honor and prestige of a nation cannot be bartered.

At one time, the Hizballah was a limited organization that carried the banner of the struggle against Israel in Lebanon

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

on its shoulders alone. However, today the Hizballah is not limited to a collection of factions or an association. The Islamic Resistance in the south today is a model of antioccupationist struggle and it's great and extensive popular charisma clearly indicates that the Lebanese people laud its spirit of resistance before the enemy and support it with all their being.

Today the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon is a national mode of thought. It is the basis of an all-encompassing, antioccupationist struggle. For this reason, today it is considered the whetstone of the sincerity of factions, groups, and personalities in Lebanon. If today the government and officials of Lebanon support the anti-Zionist resistance in the south and feel a sense of strength, it stems from the effects and fallout of the breathtaking struggle of the people in southern Lebanon who have given them something to bank on. If we view the issues justly, the fact is that the Lebanese ruling system does not have anything to say without the Islamic Resistance in the south and has nothing else up its sleeve to combat Israel selflessly and effectively.

If the Lebanese ruling system wishes to consolidate the foundations of its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, it should incorporate into its programs the expansion of the activities of wholesome popular cells on the model of the Islamic Resistance in the south. Then neither the pressure exerted by the United States nor the haggling by Christopher will have any effect on the present and future destiny of Lebanon. The fate of the country of Lebanon will be decided by the combatant men and women who are willing to stake their lives on the annihilation of the usurpers and on the chastisement of their supporters. They are the ones who will forge the destiny of their wrathful struggle against the enemies of humanity for their own benefit.

Majles Deputies on Syrian Relations, Hizballah

NC1208102894 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Shahrd Asna-'Ashari]

[Text] If Syria joins in the process of Middle East peace talks, Iran's relations with Syria will continue to be friendly and extensive as long as peace between Syria and Israel is not considered a threat to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This was stated by Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Naderi Bo'inzahra, an Avaj deputy and a member of the executive board of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee, in an interview with ABRAR's parliamentary correspondent. Referring to the recent visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state, he said: If the possible Syrian-Israeli peace does not affect Iranian-Syrian relations, then there is no serious objection. Otherwise a new strategic decision should be made so that we can act in line with regional developments.

He added: Syria is persisting with the issue of the withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Although secret diplomatic relations have been initiated between Syria and Israel, it seems that if Syria's conditions are met, the two countries will reach a noteworthy understanding. Of course Israel wants to hand over Golan to Syria in several phases so that it can bring Syria to the negotiating table and pursue its own objectives when the time is right.

Going on to explain the issue further, the member of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee said: Syria is trying to resolve its problems with the Zionist regime. Even Jordan's peace with Israel is considered an important step on this road. But Syria cannot relinquish its stand because it is a Muslim and Arab country and Israel is always a serious threat to it.

Emphasizing that support for the Lebanese Hizballah is legitimate and legal, Hojjat ol-Eslam Naderi pointed out: In view of our knowledge of Syria, it seems that support for the Lebanese people and Hizballah will continue.

Hasan Qashqavi, Shahriyar deputy and a member of the Executive Board of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee, also said: By granting limited concessions to Syria over the Golan Heights, Israel intends to get a guarantee from Syria on crushing the resistance and annihilating Hizballah. But it is not yet clear how much Israel is willing to retreat. Therefore, we cannot describe the prospects for a Syrian-Israeli peace as good at this juncture.

Referring to the fact that Syria is the main link in the chain of Middle East peace, he added: Syria agrees on the general issues of the peace process, but Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly stated that he is not prepared to accept peace at any price. An understanding of the situation should convince Syria that the principle of not granting concessions to the Zionist regime is more important now than ever before.

The member of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee recalled: Iran's relations with Syria are strong and solid. There is no thought of severing bilateral relations at this juncture.

In conclusion, he clarified: We are dissatisfied with the peace process and believe that the rights of the Palestinian people should be recovered.

Iraqi Peace Overtures Said Contradicted by Deeds

LD1108143594 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—The evening daily "RESALAT" in its editorial Thursday commented on the recent so-called peace gestures of the Iraqi ruler and his call for good neighborly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The paper wrote that it is a well established fact that Iran is after establishing "healthy relations with the neighboring states far from any conflict." However, in case of Iraq, "it seems that Baghdad must first demonstrate its goodwill." Baghdad has constantly been after "damaging Iran's national security." This can not only be traced in the provocative remarks of certain Iraqi officials but in repeated cases of cease-fire violations and above all giving shelter and support for the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), it added.

Iraq has increasingly become a safe haven for the terrorist MKO and these terrorists launch provocative acts on Iraq-Iraq border using the Iraqi ammunition.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

At the meantime, every now and then the Iraqi officials make peace gestures and invite officials of the neighboring countries to establish relations and peace. The latest of these, continued the editorial, is the recent remarks of Saddam expressing his interest in good neighborly relations and calling for "closing all the files relating to the war,"—1980-88 Iraqi-imposed war. He has also talked of opening a new chapter for the benefit of the two nations and regional peace and security.

Radio Baghdad in a commentary describing Saddam's remarks as "generous invitation" has drawn the attention of the Iranian government to the statements. Saddam's claim comes at a time when the Iranian nation are still grief-stricken over the dreadful explosion in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) and are highly concerned about the faith of thousands of Iranian POWs, still in captivity in Iraqi prisons. Baghdad's peace claims are in full contradiction with its deeds, practices and provocative acts, concluded RESALAT.

Foreign Ministry Official on Resolution 598

NC1108145394 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 94 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] What clauses in Resolution 598 have not been implemented so far? In principle, what are the obstacles in the path of the implementation of this resolution?

[Zarif] Basically, the clauses in Resolution 598 can be divided into two groups. One group comprises those that should be implemented by Iran and Iraq. The cease-fire and the withdrawal of troops have been implemented completely, praise be to God. We do witness some violations of the cease-fire by Iraq and some of the Iraqi regime's agents (the Monafeqin) [hypocrites—reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and other lackeys. In one case one of the armed Monafeqin members fled from the border into that country. He was involved in the recent plots by the Monafeqin and we have constantly asked the international community and the Iraqi Government for the extradition of this criminal.

The second clause, which unfortunately has not been implemented in its entirety, concerns the POW's. It has not been implemented because of the insincerity of the Iraqi Government. We have documented facts and figures to prove that a number of our combatants are still in the custody of the Iraqi Government and that we have no news of their condition. The Iraqi Government has not deigned to give us any proof that would elucidate the condition of these dear ones.

The fourth clause in Resolution 598 pertains to resolving the differences between Iran and Iraq. We presented some suggestions to the Iraqi deputy foreign minister during his visit to Iran recently, which was in response to my visit to Baghdad. These include the establishment of various committees, putting barbed wire on the borders, normalization of conditions in the Arvand River as well as use of this river, and all other issues. We hope that these suggestions will be implemented to return the region to its normal state.

These clauses all pertain to the issues between Iran and Iraq. The second group of clauses concern issues that are to be implemented by the United Nations or a group of countries, which should include Iran and Iraq.

The fifth clause of Resolution 598 refers mostly to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf during the war. After the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the two countries, the UN secretary general sent a letter to all the countries and called on them to refrain from actions that would generate tension in the region. In our opinion, and that of all neutral observers, the extensive presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region has done nothing but generate tension in the region.

The sixth clause of the resolution concerns identifying the aggressor, which has been done, praise be to God. Even though there was an immense delay, 10 years after the end of the Iran-Iraq war [as published], the UN secretary general disseminated this in a report as part of the obligation delegated to him by the Security Council. In this report, without any doubt, Iraq was identified as the instigator of the war and responsible for continuing it. [passage omitted on war losses]

[KEYHAN] After the lapse of some years since the acceptance of Resolution 598, how do you view the future of the resolution? Basically, what are the steps being taken by the United Nations and the Security Council in particular?

[Zarif] Those clauses that have been held in abeyance will have to be implemented by the Security Council if it perceives that the situation is becoming critical. However, since Iranian-Iraqi relations are not at a critical stage at the moment, the Security Council does not see any urgency in implementing those clauses yet. In any case, Resolution 598 is one approved by the Security Council and is valid. Therefore, those clauses that have not been implemented will have to be.

* Tehran Seen Softening Stand on Gulf Islands

94LA0231A Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 21 Jun 94 p 4

[Text] On Monday, 16 Khordad [6 June], Mohammad Mohammadi, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced that the three disputed islands in the Persian Gulf belong to Iran, but Iran is prepared to negotiate with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] without conditions or restrictions concerning its dispute with regard to these islands.

In the last two years, before these statements were made, the Islamic regime was only willing to negotiate joint ownership of Abu-Musa Island with the UAE and did not consider the question of sovereignty over the Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek islands to be negotiable.

Iran's last official position in this regard was given in remarks by Nateq-Nuri on 3 Khordad [24 May]. He

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

announced that Iran is prepared to negotiate directly with the UAE concerning ownership of Abu-Musa Island. This received an immediate reaction from Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. He described Iran's proposal as "deficient" and said that his country wants to negotiate on all three islands.

The clear retreat by the regime of the "vice regency of the chief jurisconsult" from its former positions concerning the three islands in question came just one day after the end of the meeting of foreign ministers of the member nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE, in a joint statement issued on 15 Khordad [5 June], expressed their regret concerning Iran's refusal to answer the repeated proposal by the UAE to hold direct and serious negotiations to end the occupation of the three islands.

Paper Views Uzbek Leadership as 'Openly Hostile'

NC1108152494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Why Go to Tashkent?"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, at the head of a high level political delegation, is on his way to Central Asia and the Caucasus today. While in Central Asia, Velayati will visit Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan before going to Azerbaijan in the Caucasus region.

Political analysts agree that the Islamic Republic should expand its relations with these newly created Republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus, particularly at this stage when the economies and political systems of these countries are being developed. This development is a sensitive process which will be the cornerstone of the economic and political structure of these countries.

Because of its historical ties with these republics, Iran, after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, did everything within its power to help them achieve their political, economic and social objectives.

Political stability of these countries is crucial to our own national security. Therefore, Dr. Velayati's trip to that region is in line with Iran's foreign policy. However, his visit to Tashkent is being questioned by several political analysts in Tehran.

Uzbekistan's President, Islam Karimov, has been actively suppressing the intellectual communities of Samarkand and Bukhara, while openly instigating and interfering in Tajikistan's bloody coup d'tat. Karimov was also instrumental in the failure of Moscow and Tehran peace conferences. These Karimov policies and actions, together with his recent anti-Iran stance, should be enough reason for Dr. Velayati not to go to Tashkent.

President Karimov has also been advising other regional countries to sever their ties with the Islamic Republic, and has openly asked the West's help in his campaign to curtail Iran's influence in the region. His invitation to the foreign minister of the Zionist entity to visit Tashkent and discuss ways to cooperate in eradicating Islamic thinking in the region is another example of Mr. Karimov's policies.

If the goal of Dr. Velayati in visiting Tashkent is to convey Tehran's point of view, then this message should have been conveyed to the Tashkent regime through a lower echelon Iranian diplomat or delegation. Dr. Velayati's visit to a country whose government and political leaders are so openly hostile to the Islamic Republic could easily be construed as a weakness in our foreign policy.

Trade Statistics With Turkmenistan Reported

LD1108155794 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Aug. 11, IRNA—Iran and Turkmenistan have exchanged dlrs. [dollars] 17,514.000 worth of goods via Lotfabad border since March 21, Deputy Head of the Customs Office at this northeastern Iranian province Gholam Reza Honarmand announced here Thursday.

He said 320 lorries and trailers had also carried goods from Iran to Turkey and Pakistan within the period through Lotfabad customs office.

He put the total amount of goods exported to Turkmenistan this year at 635 tons, worth dlrs. 345,000. The official added that over 5,000 passengers have crossed Lotfabad border this year.

Various garments, textiles, shoes, foodstuff, fruits, fruit juice, motor oil, television sets, refrigerators, agricultural machineries, iron wares, soft drinks, pesticides and construction materials are among major goods which are frequently being exported from Iran to Central Asian republics, Honarmand said.

Dailies View Demonstrations in Qazvin

Respect for Majles Urged

NC1208100594 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 4 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Let Us Not Forget History"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday the bill to make Qazvin a province was rejected by a majority of votes in the esteemed Majles, and apparently this decision did not satisfy the pious people of that region. Respecting a decision adopted by a sacred institution like the Majles guarantees the continued existence of the country and the tranquility of the masses. If we confront each decision by the esteemed Majles, then the supreme legislative and decisionmaking organ—which is striving to improve the country—will be obstructed, since there is no guarantee that today's protests will not become tomorrow's "tradition." This will be the starting point of chaos, which will ultimately lead to despotism—the bitter taste of which the Iranian people still remember from the 2,500 years during which it was imposed upon them.

Meanwhile, in a vast and multi-ethnic country like Iran—and we should all be thankful to God almighty for that—if

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

an area or a tribe wants to make demands by ignoring the economic, security, political, cultural, and social exigencies that are needed to form a "province," then we ask the martyr-nurturing people of Qazvin: How many provinces, in addition to the 25 existing provinces, will suffice? When all of us cast our votes, we accepted the final outcome of the election of people's deputies. Nothing can ever be established if we do not observe this world tradition. Safeguarding the sanctity of the sacred institution of the Majles primarily depends on the people's respect for it. Otherwise, we ourselves will be the first to lose. Let us not forget history.

Disturbances Blamed on 'Enemies'

NC1108181994 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "In the Margin of the Qazvin Events"]

[Text] The recent unrest in the city of Qazvin, which has continued during the past few days and has provided grist for the mills of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution, was, like all other problems, spawned by thoughtless actions and the lack of a timely and correct approach to events. Unfortunately, this has been the state of affairs for many years due to the planning and instigations of the enemies of the Iranian nation and has been festering into an abnormal, putrid, tumor that should on principle be eliminated as soon as possible.

Naturally, such actions that culminate in social chaos have their roots in a series of miscellaneous causes, the solutions to which should be sought by the officials and the people in a realistic and open-minded manner. What is important is that the enemies of the people and the revolution have been planning to foment ethnic and internal strife in Iran for many years. In recent years they have stepped up their provocations, and it is obvious to all our people and officials that generating internal and ethnic strife is one of the main strategies of the enemies of the revolution and of the Iranian nation in which intensive investment has been made.

Differences between Shiites and Sunnis, Turks and Farsis, Kords and non-Kords, Baluchis and Zabolis, and among various cities are all an immutable reality. So far, due to the vigilance of the Iranian nation, this ploy has been unsuccessful. At present, we are in similar conditions in which this putrid tumor should be surgically removed so that we can prove that we are an alert and unified nation.

The losses inflicted by a group of people on government installations such as the Treasury—human and material losses—are a serious error if they resulted from sheer ignorance. If this was done deliberately, it is certain that a vast number of those who have been incited to participate in these incidents do not belong in this category, then it is treachery to the aspirations of an oppressed nation that has sacrificed many martyrs.

The disgraceful Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] have succumbed to the pressure of international public opinion. And since they do not have any place in the Iranian nation due to their shameless crimes, they construe these actions as support for themselves and make fallacious claims to that effect.

It is a source of immense regret that there are some who have unwittingly been used for this transgression. The criminal terrorists, the Monafeqin, who have no place in the Iranian nation, are capitalizing on the incidents that are the result of the thoughtless actions of some and the inattention of the relevant officials.

In the past few days, the foreign mass media also reaped much political capital from these incidents. Our country's officials and mass media should carry out a hair-splitting analysis with awareness and should resolve it. They should generate awareness and the recognition of facts among the people to clarify the situation. Instead of hearing incorrect and distorted versions by foreigners and the foreign media, the people should hear the facts from our own officials and media.

How long are we going to continue our erroneous policy? How long should we continue in a lackadaisical manner while some ignorant people are incited to create problems for us, while the enemies of the Revolution and of the people make them more audacious and pit them against us? We then take stances on hindsight against them.

When no attention is paid to the truth or legitimate wishes, an abscessed tumor evolves. If it is not tackled correctly, it generates problems that provide an unwholesome breeding ground and undesirable conditions. These are aggravated by other social and extraneous factors and the atmosphere and venue become contaminated, which causes immense harm.

When one speaks thoughtlessly, one should anticipate the fallout of his actions in distinctive social circumstances. This is something that all people should be very sensitive about. One should not do anything that requires the sacrifice of our national interests. Our national interests are of the utmost importance and all share equal responsibility in upholding them.

Besharati on Upgrading Hormozgan Security

LD1108124394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] By upgrading Hormozgan Province's security ranking from third to second class, the operational capacity of the province's law enforcement district has been doubled.

At the end of his one day visit to Bandar-e 'Abbas, Interior Minister Besharati announced the above news and said: On the basis of this decision, which was adopted during last night's meeting of the provincial security council, the provincial Law Enforcement Force will recruit 12,000 more personnel. He added: With this significant change in the security status of this district, from now on the province's armed bandits, merchants of death [drug dealers], smugglers of contraband goods and all elements who disturb peace and public order will find themselves in a very dire situation.

The interior minister, who was taking part in a news conference in Hormozgan Province last night, also referred to the enthusiastic reception given by the local people to

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

their new governor general. He told the people: With your enthusiastic presence, you have in fact endorsed your choice, and this is really very valuable to us.

Increased Oil Production Capacity Urged

NC1108151894 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 4 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Imperative to Boost Production Capacity"]

[Text] Brent blend North Sea crude oil reached $19 per barrel, the highest since May 1993. Analysts informed of oil-related issues believe that this price boost is the upshot of Nigeria's hectic economic conditions, compounded by Nigerian Oil and Gas Union's four-week-long strike which has virtually paralyzed the country's economy.

In point of fact, Nigeria, with a daily production of 2 million barrels, holds fifth place as a major OPEC oil-producer. Now that it has faced political instability, the oil market is exposed to a shock.

Oil prices, meantime, saw a soaring trend from February when each barrel reached some $12. The experience of at least the past three decades indicates that universally crude oil does not abide merely by "economic rules and regulations". To the contrary, manifold other parameters—mainly those relevant to "politics"—are conducive to its price fluctuations.

On this basis, this year's oil prices somehow had a surprising turn for those with economic anticipations foreseeing the prices at their zenith in November and at their nadir in July and August. Now what is to be done as panacea?

Without a tingle of doubt, oil price slump over the past two years has conduced to Iran's current foreign debts, and so the First Five-Year Plan's provisions in regard to oil revenues were not enforced.

Repayment of these debts and the accruing interests is not, meantime, feasible through reliance on non-oil exports which are mainly in the hands of the private sector. Also not much hope can be pinned on improving the situation by increasing oil prices, while keeping up the existing production level. As a consequence, the country's reconstruction process naturally faces a growing need for foreign currency.

A promising approach is for Iran to keep its "production capacity" higher than the OPEC quota in order to replace any OPEC or non-OPEC oil producer that is driven off the production cycle. This approach—as cleverly adopted by Saudi Arabia after Iraq and Kuwait were driven off the production cycle—has proven to work out successfully.

In a nutshell, "high production capacity" is presently an exigency for Iran, since it is imperative for Tehran to repay the foreign debts that could mar the country's "political independence".

Bank Governor Says Public's Trust Increasing

NC1208112494 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 4 Aug 94 p 4

[Commentary by Central Bank Governor Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli: "Increased Trust in the Banking System"]

[Text] Among the various criteria that can cause a rise in public trust in any banking system, two are the most important. In this commentary, an effort will be made to discuss briefly these two criteria. The first criterion concerns the volume of banknotes and coins in the hands of the people relative to the general cash flow, and the second criterion concerns the volume of money printed relative to this cash flow.

The first criterion means that we should see how much of their total wealth people keep in banks and how much they keep in their pockets or save at home. The greater the public trust in the banking system, the more people will trust dealing with and through banks. Thus, a large part of their cash will be deposited in banks and they will keep a smaller portion in their pockets.

At the start of the First Development Plan in 1989, the people had 22 percent of their total cash flow in the form of cash in hand, which they kept at home, in their shops, in their businesses, or in their pockets, while they deposited 78 percent in banks. After five years and with a noteworthy and praiseworthy improvement in banking services, this ratio has changed and now the amount of banknotes and coins in the hands of the people is 11.9 percent. This means that the people are keeping 11.9 percent of their money in cash and are depositing 88.1 percent in banks. The more than 10 percent drop in the amount of cash held by the people in recent years was gradual and shows a growing trust in banks, a rise in bank transactions, and a reduction in cash transactions. This can be considered another of the successes of the First Development Plan.

In order to give the dear readers a yardstick for comparison, we should say that the percentages in Germany, the United States, and Japan are 10.5 percent, 9 percent, and 6.9 percent respectively. The amount of banknotes and coins in the hands of the people is 30.7 percent in Pakistan, 20 percent in India, and 13.5 percent in Egypt. These comparative figures show that this situation has improved in our country in a noteworthy manner and has reached the percentages that prevail in developed countries.

The second criterion concerns the amount of money printed. In all countries only a part of the people's monetary wealth is in the form of printed money, because all the people do not use banknotes at the same time. Therefore, it is not necessary for us to have, say, 100 billion rials in circulation if the people's wealth amounts to 100 billion rials, because part of this wealth is always kept in banks.

In a related way, each society's need for banknotes is regulated by the amount of trust the people have in banks. In our country in 1989, 24 percent of the money printed was in circulation. This means that 24 percent of the people's wealth was circulating in the form of banknotes. This figure has now dropped to 15.8 percent. In other words, our need to print banknotes is less than in the past. The significance of this percentage becomes clearer when we take into consideration the fact that the volume of transactions has increased, particularly due to adjustments in foreign exchange rates. Nevertheless, the need for actual banknotes has dropped, which is something gained through correct monetary and banking policies.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

Undoubtedly, a drop in the need for banknotes shows that, first of all, people are depositing a larger percentage of their money in banks; fewer cash transactions are being carried out than in the past; banks are offering better and more varied services to the public; and various credit and monetary instruments such as travelers checks, credit cards, and bank checks are gradually gaining popularity among the people.

All of the above means that the people have placed trust in the country's banking system. Actually, by offering better services and by introducing new credit and monetary facilities, the banks have succeeded in gaining the people's trust and have received a good and positive response from the people.

Of course, this relative success does not mean the job has been completed. There are some fields in which new and more advanced credit and monetary facilities should be introduced and more steps taken. Also, in offering various services—particularly computer services—banks should take daring initiatives so that better figures and percentages can be offered by the end of the Second Development Plan. Therefore, with the reward that our banking system has received for its efforts thus far, it should strive in the future to offer even better services to our dear and heroic people. God willing.

Nepal

Over 12,000 Congress Party Workers Attend Meeting

BK1108013994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1823 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 10 (AFP)—Over 12,000 rank and file activists of the Nepali Congress (NC) Wednesday attended a two-day meeting called to forge party unity and deal with a challenge from communist factions, a party source said.

The meeting was attended by district-level representatives across the country. It was addressed by top Nepali Congress leaders including Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

Addressing the packed Royal Nepalese Academy hall while more than 10,000 supporters stood outside, Koirala assured the audience that the country's largest and oldest democratic party would never fall apart. "I have eschewed all the differences with party friends. Now we must forge ahead unitedly in order to make the Nepali Congress victorious in the upcoming elections by a two-thirds majority," he said.

At the meeting, Bhattarai made conciliatory comments about a petition filed at the Supreme Court asking that King Birendra's July 11 act of dissolution of the elected lower house of parliament be quashed. He said if the house was reinstated, the NC would accept the verdict and work within its means.

Observers here have attached much significance to NC officials hinting at the possibility of reinstating the dissolved House of Representatives. The court will hear arguments of the petitioners and the respondents on behalf of the Koirala government August 23.

Several speakers at the meeting had also strongly criticised Koirala. One of the NC ex-MPs criticised Koirala for asking the king to dissolve the elected house of representatives. "Even after the Koirala government's defeat in the house of representatives on its annual plans and programmes, the prime minister should have sought the vote of confidence required for the survival of the government because the NC had enjoyed a comfortable majority," he said.

The NC had 112 members in the dissolved 205-member house of representatives. The king had dissolved the house of representatives on July 11 at Koirala's urging. The government had lost a crucial parliamentary debate on its annual social, economic and political programmes on July 10 after which the prime minister resigned from office.

The second-day meeting of the NC is being held in camera on Thursday to draw up a strategy for the unity among the rank and file activists of the NC and take up the challenge posed from six factions of the communist parties of Nepal.

This report contains information which is or may be copyrighted in a number of countries. Therefore, copying and/or further dissemination of the report is expressly prohibited without obtaining the permission of the copyright owner(s).

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.